What Would Jesus Say...

to the Church, the Nations and Israel today?

By Rev. Malcolm Hedding

What would Jesus say to the Church, the nations and Israel today? If ever there was a burning question to be answered by Christians who are serious about following the Lord this is it! Our world is in considerable turmoil and the way forward will not be found in the printed or electronic media. This will only serve as a deception because for them the world is driven by the unexpected and unpredictable adventures of men. They see no divine hand in world events and, as a consequence, totally misread them.

On the other hand scripture states that we have received the mind of Christ and therefore know the things that God has given us by His Spirit. Jesus said that His Holy Spirit would lead us into all truth and show us things to come.

So, the Church or people of God should be talking to the world today and, at the very least, to the faithful within its holy precincts. Sadly, too often this is not the case and so even the people of God are groping for answers.

A major “foundation stone” in understanding the purpose of God today is to recognize that chaos and confusion do not mean that God has lost control of His world. No, He is firmly in control and what appears chaotic and even dangerous to us is not to Him. He engages the world with a totally different set of values to the ones we have and these include judgment. This in turn manifests in wars, natural disasters and regime change in nations. His ways are not our ways and they are far removed from us.

All the more reason why we should seek His face, call upon Him and draw aside to hear His word. These are extraordinary days and the people of God, and especially leaders, need to know His voice and purpose in the world. Scripture affirms that where there is no vision the people will perish. That is, perish in darkness because they did not know the season and times of their day. They had no light!

By contrast Paul states that we are not children of darkness but of the light. Events do not overtake us by surprise and leave us bewildered. But is this the case? A probing question indeed! Scripture speaks about three important groups upon the face of the earth: The Church, the nations and Israel. The head of the Church is Jesus so what would He want to say to us today? Surely He is longing to speak for He said, time and time again, “My sheep hear My voice.”

Bearing all this in mind the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is calling for a Pastors and Leaders summit, which will include a tour, in Israel next year to explore this question. Godly leaders with a proven track record in hearing the voice of The Spirit will be sharing and praying with us. This is a unique opportunity to gather on the banks of the Sea of Galilee and once again invite Jesus to share with His disciples. This very special gathering will take place from the 6th to the 13th March 2009. You cannot afford to miss it.

For further details contact our office toll free on 1-866-393-5890 or go online to: www.icejusa.org/pastors.
Dear Friends,

In his book, Our Father Abraham, Dr. Marvin Wilson tells the story of a New Testament scholar in an internationally recognized university, who used to tell his students, “The first thing you must do to be a good Christian is to kill the Jew inside of you.” Once, one of his confused students raised her hand and responded with this question: “Do you mean Jesus?”

Thankfully, a revolution is now taking place in biblical scholarship and Christian thought that is reconnecting Jesus as well as Christianity to our Judaic roots. This is because millions of Christians have visited the land of the Bible, to “walk where Jesus walked” and for the first time came into direct contact with the Hebraic culture, language and context of Jesus. No longer can the Jewishness of Jesus be ignored.

Time magazine’s March 24 cover story, “10 Ideas That Are Changing the World,” singled out what scholars are now calling “Re-Judaizing Jesus” as the most powerful idea in the field of religion. It pointed out that seminaries are finally beginning to teach the Hebraic context of Jesus because to do otherwise is to “misunderstand who Jesus was and what he taught.”

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has been on the cutting edge of this development for thirty years teaching in churches around the world and producing educational materials in dozens of languages. It has been our joy to help many believers get to know the physical and historical setting of Jesus’ life and ministry.

And we are looking forward to hosting pastors from around the world in the Galilee next March to study and pray together. It is a unique opportunity to gather on the banks of the Sea of Galilee and allow Jesus, in his home setting, to once again instruct his disciples.

In His Most Glorious Service,

Susan Michael
USA Director of ICEJ

ICEJ PRAYER CAMPAIGN

A Call to Prayer

We need to seek God in His mercy for the leader we need, not the leader we deserve

By Susan Michael

It is not hard to recognize that we are living in a time of great crisis and uncertainty. Plagued by unprecedented societal ills and external threats, a fierce battle is raging over the destiny of America.

The greed of Wall Street is threatening both our economy and that of much of the rest of the world. Natural disasters are putting fear and weariness in the hearts of many. And in Israel, the resignation of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has plunged the nation into political upheaval at the very time when the US is deeply divided and entrenched in an intensely fought Presidential campaign.

But all of this pales in comparison to Iran’s threats against Israel coupled with Tehran’s seemingly relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons. This campaign not only endangers Israel and the United States, but is a threat to the security of the entire western world.

Some voices, including that of Iranian President Ahmadinejad are predicting doom and gloom for America. They say that America will never be the same, that we have lost our lead and are now in a downward spiral.

2 Chronicles 7:14 promises that if we will humble ourselves and pray, and turn from our wicked ways, then God will forgive our sin and heal our land. It is our prayer that churches and communities will begin a movement of prayer and repentance that will spread across our great nation so that God in His mercy may give us the leader we need, and not the leader we now deserve.

Susan Michael serves as USA Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

A Call to Prayer

We need to seek God in His mercy for the leader we need, not the leader we deserve

By Susan Michael
Indicting Ahmadinejad

By David Parsons

On Monday, September 22, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad arrived in New York to address the United Nations. CNN’s Larry King offered him a prime time TV audience while the World Council of Churches hosted a dinner at the Hyatt in his honor. It was left to the ICEJ to speak up for the Christians in more than 120 nations that have called on the UN to respect its own charter and indict Ahmadinejad for incitement to genocide...

After an 18-month global campaign calling on the international community to take stronger action against the threat of a nuclear Iran, the ICEJ has presented a petition, signed by 55,000 Christians from more than 120 countries, to the United Nations Secretary General in New York.

“The Stop Iran petition, which calls on the world body to enforce international law by indicting Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for incitement to genocide, was delivered on the eve of the Iranian leader’s latest visit to the States to address the UN General Assembly in September.

“The silence of most Christian clergy in the face of Germany’s horrific bid to annihilate European Jewish life left a deep stain on the face of Germany’s horrific bid to annihilate European Jewry left a deep stain on the face of Germany...”

Hedding also noted that Ahmadinejad appears to have developed a warped self-awareness that he is to play a key role in the advent of the 13th Imam expected by many devout Shia Muslims.

“Taken together, this makes for a highly potent eliculus, as the Iranian regime would possess both the motivation and the means to trigger unspeakable carnage and chaos worldwide,” Hedding warned.

On the evening of September 25, a group of mainline Christian denominational leaders hosted a New York ‘dialogue dinner’ in honor of Ahmadinejad. In response, the ICEJ joined forces with an unprecedented coalition of human rights and advocacy groups to protest the event outside the Grand Hyatt Hotel, opposite the city’s landmark Grand Central Station.

“While the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem welcomes efforts to de-radicalize religious perceptions,” Hedding said in a statement read out to the hundreds of protestors assembled at the rally, “it is outrageous that the main guest at this dinner is someone who so thoroughly mocks and loathes these valued ideals.”

“Ahmadinejad rejects everything that Christianity stands for,” casting aspersions on the character of the United Nations, according to a petition delivered on the eve of the Iranian leader’s latest visit to the States to address the UN General Assembly in September.

We call upon the United Nations to act without delay to censure and penalize Iran to the full extent possible, lest the very body founded to shield nations against such heinous crimes be found complicit in the same.

We wish to express our outrage and alarm at the repeated threats and actions that constitute a clear violation of the UN Charter and the international convention for preventing and punishing the crime of genocide.

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Youth Aliyah

Christian youth take up the challenge to help their Jewish peers come home

By Howard Flower

As Israel marks its 60th Anniversary this year, one important contributor to the nation’s birth and success has been Youth Aliyah, a program of the Jewish Agency for Israel that predates the state by more than a decade. Now in its 75th year, Youth Aliyah has helped integrate 300,000 Jewish youths into Israeli society since its inception in 1933.

The earliest efforts to locate and bring endangered young Jews to Eretz Israel managed to rescue 22,000 Jewish children from the Nazi Holocaust. After the war, thousands more Jewish youths were salvaged from the squalid displacement camps and brought through the British blockade to Mandatory Palestine. Known as “Aliyah Bet”, these clandestine operations were the precursor to today’s vaunted Mossad.

The ICEJ has been assisting with Youth Aliyah in a number of areas, particularly in Russia, Belarus, the Baltic states, and now in Canada. We offer grants, reimbursement for travel expenses to departure cities, hospitality, and transportation by our vans. We have donated computers for aliya centers where Russian Jewish youths can learn Hebrew and find out more about Israel.

For many years, our ‘fishing’ teams have interacted with Jewish Agency youth groups throughout the vast Russian countryside. A common question was: “Why do Christians want to help Jews?” We were always happy to answer. Out of these youth groups has flowed a steady stream of young people to Israel.

In many cases, we are also helping Israeli minors return home after an extended time abroad.

Recently, the ICEJ’s Crafted program for Young Adults decided to begin exploring ways to connect young Christians with their Jewish peers involved in Youth Aliyah.

Be a part of this prophetic ingathering of Jews to their ancient homeland. Support the ongoing work of the ICEJ today! (2)

Howard Flower serves as Aliyah Director for the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

Farewell Chuck

By Malcolm Hedding

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem owes a great debt of gratitude to Chuck King, our Music and Worship Director, and his lovely family.

For many years, both in Israel and all around the world, Chuck has brought a ministry of music and worship that has uplifted and inspired God’s children everywhere.

From small churches to the great crowds of pilgrims that attend the annual Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles, lives have been touched and transformed by the power of God flowing through Chuck’s life and ministry. Only one word sums up his many years with us: Blessing!

Now Chuck and Louann will be leaving us at the end of the year to further follow the will of God for their lives. We rejoice in two things: One, that we could have shared in his gift; and two, that they will continue to bless the people of God everywhere.

Thank you Chuck and may God bless you and your wonderful family in all that He leads you into.

Dr. Jürgen Bühler serves as International Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

From the Amazon to Jerusalem

Feast of Tabernacles draws 1,500 Brazilians to the City of the Great King

By Jürgen Bühler

It ten years of serving at the Christian Embassy, it is a truly amazing to witness how the Spirit of God draws thousands of pilgrims up to Jerusalem each year for the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. For almost three decades now, Christians from nearly every nation of the world have answered that call. It is a splendid foreshadowing of that time prophesied by Zechariah when the Lord Jesus will reign from here over all the earth.

One nation which has been answering the call to Jerusalem in an incredible way in recent years is Brazil. Known elsewhere for its dazzling soccer stars, the nation is also undergoing a powerful move of God, which is reflected in the number of Brazilian pilgrims attending the Feast.

Pastor Rene Terra Nova, the ICEJ National Director in Brazil, heads a mega-church in Manaus, a large but isolated city at the mouth of the Amazon. More than 50,000 believers attend his vibrant congregation, while a rapidly growing network of hundreds of pastors and ministry leaders all across South America look to him for apostolic leadership. Many of these pastors oversee their own large fellowships, placing some three million Christians under his extended care.

Pastor Terra Nova’s dedication to bringing pilgrims to Jerusalem each year is truly exciting. “For us to come to Jerusalem is like coming home,” he says. “Jerusalem is a source of inspiration, not only for me but for every pastor, leader and believer in my country; we should see it as a duty to come to the City of the Great King for the Feast of Tabernacles.”

This year, a record delegation of 1500 Brazilians will arrive with Pastor Terra Nova for the Feast. He was set to bring more but there were not enough plane seats and hotel rooms. Those who do come will bring an infectious joy for the Lord and for Israel that always spills over to pilgrims from other nations. A very warm welcome to them all!
What Would Jesus Say... to the Church, the Nations and Israel today?

March 6th-13th, 2009
The Galilee & Jerusalem

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is hosting a conference and tour of Israel that is specially designed for pastors and ministry leaders from around the world seeking to explore the pressing question of Jesus’ heart for the Church in these days. Study and pray together with godly leaders with a proven track record in hearing the voice of the Spirit. Receive renewed vision of the calling of God for our ministries and nations.

Call toll free for details: 1-866-393-5890
www.icejusa.org/pastors

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Dr. Jürgen Bühler
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Rev. Peter Watt
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Rev. Martti Kallionpää
Finland

Rev. David Elms
United Kingdom

Juha Ketola
Finland

This is a unique opportunity to gather on the banks of the Sea of Galilee and once again invite Jesus to share with His disciples.