In June, I was invited to Brazil along with ICEJ Chairman Rev. Juha Ketola of our Finnish branch to address a pastors conference in Manaus, a large city at the mouth of the Amazon River. The conference was organized by ICEJ-Brazil national director, Apostle Rene Terra Nova, who oversees a large network of churches throughout South America. Up to four thousand pastors and church leaders from all over Latin America attended the gathering and gratefully received our teachings on the biblical significance of Israel’s restoration in our day.

In Manaus, the two rivers carrying the highest volume of water in the world, the Amazon and Rio Negro, merge to send a powerful stream of fresh water into the Atlantic Ocean. Overlooking the Rio Negro from our hotel, one could not help but ‘think big’. The river at this point is 10 kilometers wide, moving forward every second with an inconceivably large amount of water, flooding much of the rain forest on both its shores.

Thinking big also characterizes the vision of the local churches in that region. Brazil is now a country of revival, with more than 30% of its population claiming to be born-again Christians. Manaus seems to be a key hub of this spiritual explosion. It is the most ‘Christian’ city in Brazil, with more than half of its two million inhabitants now Evangelical believers. The Pentecostal “Assemblies of God” alone has 1000 local congregations in Manaus and its surrounding areas.

The church which Rev. Terra Nova pastors started out some 19 years ago in a small garage in a suburb of Manaus and today hosts more than 70,000 members. The main church building is packed three times every Sunday and on every single day of the week. Cell churches meet in numerous other venues around the city in parallel with the main congregation. Once a month, they all come together in the city’s massive ‘Sambadrom’ arena, normally used for the annual carnival processions.

Thousands of pastors from all over Latin America look to Rene Terra Nova for apostolic leadership. “Our movement has a strong vision for growth and revival,” said Terra Nova. “A central part of our work is the vision for Israel.”

All the leaders of this movement are encouraged to visit Israel, if possible every year, and are urged to bring their churches along with them. While the pastors come with their groups throughout the year, the climax for many is the ICEJ’s annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem. In recent years, more 1,000 Brazilians have joined Terra Nova’s “caravan” heading for the Feast.

A deep love and concern for Israel seems to be an instinctive element of the Brazilian church.
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’s United States Branch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with offices in Washington, D.C. and in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. We are a non-denominational faith ministry supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends.

We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by using the enclosed response card to make your donation to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.

Please mail all donations to:
PO Box 440276
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Upcoming ICEJ Seminars & Speaking Events

Palm Bay, FL
Understanding Israel
August 13th: 9am-12.30pm
Truth Revealed Ministries
2838 Palm Bay Road NE
Palm Bay, FL 32905
Larry Booth & John Small

Cooper City, FL
Pastors & Leaders Conference
August 29th: 9am-4pm
Temple Beth Emet
4807 South Flamingo Rd
Cooper City FL, 33330
Susan Michael and others

Titusville, FL
Understanding Israel
October 1st: 9am-12.30pm
Hope Community Fellowship
2929 Cheney Hwy
Titusville, FL 32780
Larry Booth & John Small

Davie, FL
South Florida Israel Summit
August 28th: 7pm-9pm
Nova Southeastern University
3301 College Ave
Davie FL, 33314
Susan Michael, Danny Ayalon,
Robert Stearns and others

Gibson City, IL
Dr Carrie Burns
September 11th (tbc)
New Beginnings Fellowship
925 N State Route 47
Gibson City, IL 60936

Jerusalem/Ein Gedi, Israel
Israel, A Light to the Nations
2011 Feast of Tabernacles
October 13th-18th, 2011
Int’l Convention Center
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www.icejusa.org
I am writing this prayer update from Manaus overlooking the Rio Negro in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil. Manaus, a city of 2 million inhabitants is today one of the most Christianized cities in the world: more than half the population are evangelical believers! On Sundays the public transport system needs to be run at 100% capacity as the streets are packed with people going to church.

The church of Pastor Rene Terra Nova, which is hosting us this weekend, started less than 20 years ago in a small garage in a suburb of Manaus. Today they have some 70,000 members.

When the church decided to build their first large sanctuary, they began by building a prayer tower which, to this day, is used 24 hours a day to pray for their city, their country and the nation of Israel. Prayer is considered a primary key for today’s revival in South America.

As we pray for Israel this month, God will answer our prayers. Jesus Himself makes that promise to us. You might say: “I do not know how to pray.” If this is your question then you are in noble company. Paul the mighty Apostle made precisely that confession when he wrote:

“...For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26).

Invite God to teach you through his Holy Spirit how to pray and allow the Spirit of God to pray through you.

Finally, as you set time aside this month to pray for Israel be assured that thousands of Christians around the world are joining you. Just yesterday a Pastor from Bolivia assured me that his church of 5,000 members in Las Paz joins us each month in prayer. And many more do so around the world.

Israel today needs your prayers more than ever as do all of us who serve with the ministry of the ICEJ in Jerusalem. Thank you for standing with us and with Israel.

Dr. Juergen Buehler serves as ICEJ Interim Executive Director and lives with his family in Jerusalem. Sign up for latest project news and prayer alerts from Israel at: www.icejusa.org

Prayer Points for Israel
- Pray for the Israeli Defense Forces to react in an appropriate way to the many current threats against their borders; that they would have the wisdom to anticipate and defuse the potential civil, military and terrorist threats they face without putting the lives of their soldiers or civilians in danger.

- Please pray for the Israeli government to stand strong against pressure to accept territorial compromises which would harm the country and its inhabitants.

“Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, for he strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you. He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.” (Psalm 147: 12-14)

For the International Community
- Please pray that more and more nations will refuse to support the proposed Palestinian declaration of independence in September and demand that the Palestinian Authority renounce terror, jihadist indoctrination and their commitment to the destruction of the State of Israel.

“O God, do not keep silent; be not quiet, O God, be not still. See how your enemies are astir, how your foes rear their heads. With cunning they conspire against your people; they plot against those you cherish. ‘Come,’ they say, ‘let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of Israel be remembered no more.’” (Psalm 83: 1-4)
The Group of Eight leaders, representing the most economically powerful nations on earth, were swift to endorse Obama’s position in a statement released the next week.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was even quicker, however, to reject this new approach since it would return Israel to a territorial position that is not defensible. Every American administration up until this one has understood that, after all the wars Israel has fought to defend itself against the Arab plans for her annihilation, she requires defensible borders to live in peace and security.

Not only that, but if the pre-1967 borders are the starting point for peace, Israel faces again the shameful prospect of having to send in its own armed forces to forcibly uproot thousands of its citizens from their homes. And the world will stand by, watching through the lenses of Western media outlets that have systematically reduced these people to dehumanized illegal “settlers”, and blamed them for the lack of peace in the region, if not the entire globe.

Make no mistake, the Palestinians do not recognize Israel’s right to exist, and they have always sought an agreement with Israel that leaves the door open for further attacks on her sovereignty. Like the Ammonites, they offer peace in return for Israel’s shame. They will only come to an agreement if the Israelis cut out their right eye by removing their so-called settlements, and in so doing also return to a situation where they are more vulnerable to further attacks.

Unfortunately, the US President has led the way in adding considerable weight to their cause and the Israelis, like the people of Jabesh, find themselves isolated and outnumbered in this conflict.

Going back to I Samuel 11, we find that the people of Jabesh seek help and their messengers reach Saul. But, the Saul they find is not sitting in a kingly palace with thousands of troops at his command.

First Samuel 11 tells the fascinating story of how Israel came to be united under Saul’s kingship. As with all Old Testament stories, God has given them to us so we can learn from them and apply the principles revealed therein. This story is no different, and even gives us invaluable insights into how the Lord views events happening in our own lifetime.

In this chapter, the Ammonites come up against Jabesh. The people of Jabesh seek terms of peace but are presented with a horrible proposition - in return for peace the Ammonites want the right to cut out the right eye of every man and bring a reproach on all Israel.

Apart from the stigma and shame attached with having a whole community’s eyesight disabled, it is also evident that the Ammonites sought to ensure that Jabesh remained immobilized and defenceless against future attacks. If the men of Jabesh could not defend themselves well with both eyes, removing the right eye would certainly ensure that even in the future they would not be able to rise to the challenge and the Ammonites could seek further sacrifices for “peace” whenever they desired.

On 19 May 2011, the President of the United States announced a change in policy regarding his country’s position as peace broker between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Whereas previously, no US Administration had outlined what it believed was the territorial starting position for negotiations, but had left that for the two parties to work out, President Obama stated that the pre-1967 borders should now be the basis for the renewal of talks. Areas that do not fall within these territories - such as many Jewish towns in Judea and Samaria, along with historic ‘East Jerusalem’ - could be resolved, the President said, via land swaps.

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Going back to I Samuel 11, we find that the people of Jabesh seek help and their messengers reach Saul. But, the Saul they find is not sitting in a kingly palace with thousands of troops at his command.
He’s out in the field herding flocks. He had been crowned king already, but not all the people accepted his appointment and it seems as if life just went back to normal for Israel and for Saul, up until this point that is.

When Saul hears the news, something remarkable happens. The Spirit of God comes upon him and he becomes extremely angry. He hews a yoke of oxen into pieces, sends them throughout the land as warning of what will happen to the oxen of those who don’t come out to fight, and he manages to raise an army of 330,000, which goes on to demolish the Ammonites and save Jabesh. The people rally around Saul after this victory, gathering in Gilgal to renew the kingdom and make Saul king before God.

Saul clearly did not have the force of arms to back up his threat, but the fear of the Lord fell on the people as Saul followed the Spirit’s leading and this brought forth salvation.

It is not often that we associate the Holy Spirit with anger, or righteous indignation as some translations indicate. We are more accustomed to the Holy Spirit bringing peace or joy in the face of adversity. But God is clearly able to experience the emotions we humans know and when the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, He can even impart on us His very personal feelings regarding a situation.

In Zechariah 2:8, it says of Zion, “he who touches you touches the apple of His eye”. Your eye is the most sensitive part of your body. When the Ammonites came to Jabesh with the intent of cutting out the men’s right eyes, they did not realize that they had poked God in the eye, in His most sensitive area, and aroused His anger. It is a warning to all nations that would seek to come up against Israel to dispossess her of her God-given inheritance.

In these days, when the nations are out repeating the mistake of the Ammonites, the question for us is how in tune are we to the Holy Spirit? How well are we connected with God’s feelings on the issue? Are we outraged? Are we speaking up to ensure that our nations are warned as to the consequence of their actions?

Like Saul, we have been anointed, but have not yet received a kingdom. I Peter 2: 9 says we are a “chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation”. We don’t have physical armies under our command, but our power is in the fear of the Lord. He will bring the victory.

Isaiah 41 confirms that the Lord will deliver Israel and will destroy those who come against her. Our mission at the ICEJ has always been to speak words of comfort to Zion, to let her know that her God will surely rescue her, while also speaking a word of warning to the nations about how they treat the people of the covenant. Never has there been a time when these messages are more important.

For the sake of our own nations, we must find our voice and tell our leaders to please stop poking God in the eye.

Daryl Hedding serves as ICEJ Strategic Development Director and lives with his wife Katja and two children in Murfreesboro TN.
The Ephraimite Fable

It is time to reject speculative and divisive theology and return to the clear, unambiguous teaching of the New Testament.

BY MALCOLM HEDDING

The Ephraimite teaching has infiltrated the Christian Zionist movement and threatens to bring it into disrepute. Essentially, it is a misguided attempt to identify Gentile believers in Jesus with the half-tribe of Ephraim, which later in Scripture became synonymous with the Northern Kingdom of Israel exiled to Assyria in 722 BC. These Ten Tribes are deemed to be lost but now rediscovered in the Church! There are three versions of this error:

1. **The actual theory**
   This view holds that Jesus only came for the lost tribes of Israel and only died for them. They deny the clear teaching of Scripture that He died for the world. His atonement is thus limited and those who embrace the Cross are in fact Ephraim, most without knowing it. Some adherents claim the right to make aliyah!

2. **The replacement theory**
   Those holding this view do not believe in a limited atonement but do believe that Ephraim was lost without recovery and has been replaced by them! In other words, they exist “instead of” the original tribe.

3. **The affiliation theory**
   This group believes that in some way they are affiliated with Ephraim and appeal to a type of special revelation to explain this. In this context, they rely on much use of understanding terms, the secondary meanings of words, and spiritual speculation.

All of this is nothing short of wishful thinking! It is nowhere supported in Scripture. Most important, the New Testament is totally silent about it and indeed attributes the passages that they claim refer to Ephraim to the Gentiles. This constitutes a huge problem, so they mostly steer clear of the New Testament to assert their position. In reality, the Ephraim teaching is nothing more than a version of the old British Israelism heresy! It exists on the false notion that the northern Ten Tribes of Israel were lost. They were not. They were simply dispersed abroad and found everywhere (James 1:1).

Moreover, Paul’s point in Romans 11 is not about a hidden Gentile identity but about the fact that Israel’s partial rejection of Jesus’ Messianic credentials opened the door for those who were “not My people” to be grafted into spiritual Israel (Romans 9:24-28; Hosea 1:8-10). These, in his thinking, are real Gentiles and he says it clearly. There is no hidden meaning here (Romans 11:11-26). This, too, is his theology in Ephesians 2:11-13.

In addition, a promise of rejection, of not being “My people,” is always followed by a promise of recovery. This is the plain meaning of Hosea 1:11. There is nothing more to be read into this. Paul only ever refers to non-Jews as Gentiles. He sees no other significance in the term “Gentiles.” The Ephraimite theorists that attempt otherwise are playing around with what Paul calls “Jewish fables” in Titus.

Further, the “two sticks” of Ezekiel 37 are just what they indicate. That is, a day will come when Israel will not be known by tribes but by one naming entity. That day came a long time ago in that even by the time of Christ all of Abraham’s natural children were called Jews. Even Paul used the designation, although technically he was not a Jew but from the tribe of Benjamin! (Philippians 3:4-5) Today, Ezekiel’s vision of “one stick” has been fulfilled in that the Jews – inclusive of all the Israelite tribes – have returned home as one nation.

No theology is built on so-called unique revelation. This is Gnosticism, another early heresy that threatened to “derail” the Church (Colossians 2:18-23). The Bible is for all people for all time, including the lowly and uneducated. Its teaching, touching who we are, is clear and unambiguous in the New Testament. We are not Ephraim but Gentiles brought near by the grace of God to the commonwealth of Israel. We are not Israel by tribal affiliation.

To assert anything else is to pollute the Church with doctrines of contention and division.

Rev. Malcolm Hedding is the outgoing ICEJ Executive Director and a member of the ministry’s international Board of Trustees.
“Jerusalem for us is the source where everything started. If we neglect this source, our survival is endangered,” Terra Nova explained to me.

During the conference, ICEJ-Brazil inaugurated the new offices of the Brazilian branch right behind the church’s main auditorium. This office will serve as the hub for the regional ICEJ representatives in all 27 states of Brazil. A large Menorah dominates the entrance area.

Pastor Ruben Melo, son of our ICEJ national directors in Portugal, currently heads the ICEJ branch office in Manaus. “Our aim is to mobilize many churches in Brazil not only to come to Israel, but also to show their love in very practical ways, by supporting the various projects of the ICEJ,” he assured.

The closing meeting of the conference took place in the Sambadrom. Well-known African evangelist Reinhard Bonnke was the main speaker that evening, drawing believers from many congregations throughout the region. The arena was packed with more than 100,000 people. Everywhere we looked, one could see Christians waving Israeli flags.

Juha and I led a time of intense prayer for the peace of Jerusalem. “It was unforgettable to see so many Christians raising their hands to heaven and praying for Israel,” Juha said.

It was also most touching to see people all across the stadium raise their hands in response to Bonnke’s call for them to give their lives totally to Jesus. There was a very powerful presence of God in that enormous stadium.

I will never forget the face of a lady coming onto the platform with tears running down her cheeks. After seven years of being bound to a wheelchair, she could walk again for the first time. “Jesus has healed me,” she shouted.

Bonnke ended the service by leading the crowd in resounding praise to “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!” Amazingly, the good news of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah has powerfully transformed even the remote jungles of the Amazon.

Recently, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem hosted a farewell reception at our Jerusalem headquarters for outgoing Executive Director Rev. Malcolm Hedding, whose 10-year term of service ended on 31 July.

Dr. Juergen Buehler, the incoming Executive Director, presided over the gathering, which was attended by numerous Israeli government officials and other Christian and Jewish leaders in Jerusalem.

Israel’s deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon (pictured below left) and Shaya Ben-Yehuda, the Managing Director for International Relations at Yad Vashem (below right) were among the dignitaries who brought greetings and words of praise and gratitude for Hedding’s many accomplishments as head of the ministry.

As a parting gift, the Embassy staff commissioned a special painting of Malcolm and his wife Cheryl in a playful, romantic French style, which was presented to the couple by media director David Parsons.

Malcolm Hedding will remain on the ICEJ’s international Board of Trustees and will continue to travel and speak for the ministry, including at the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem from 13-18 October.

Dr. Juergen Buehler serves as ICEJ Interim Executive Director in Jerusalem, and since 2005 has served as the ministry’s International Director. Learn more about the worldwide work of the ICEJ: www.icejusa.org/world
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