The Prophetic Word
Understanding the Unfolding Purpose of God in the Earth

The Words of Peter

The Apostle Peter urges us to give attention to the “prophetic word” because it constitutes a light shining in a dark place. In other words it is our only reliable ‘GPS System.’ Sadly, too often this prophetic word has been mishandled and abused by those who are only interested in speculation and prophetic entertainment. In reality, the prophetic word is testimony to the unfolding purpose and plan of God in Israel, the Church and the nations. It tells what we should be doing!

The Words of Paul

In Matthew 24 and the other synoptic gospels Jesus pinpoints our times by giving “signs” that have no relevance until the Jews have been returned, by the hand of God, to the land of Israel. This return will include Jerusalem (Luke 21:24) and it will arouse global hostility. The nations will be in uproar and will mobilize their resources against Zion. However this means that we should see this return of the Jews as evidence of the plan and will of God and we should therefore rise up to bless what God Himself is doing. As Jesus put it, “the fig tree” is once again putting forth leaves and by this we know that the summer is near. That is, the day of His coming (Matthew 24:32-33).

Jesus also spoke about the gospel going to the ends of the earth and then the “end will come” (Matthew 24:14). Here again this is a call to action and not to speculation. The Church must be involved in the great commission. A church that is outward looking will enjoy spiritual vitality and growth. Sadly, Jesus also warns that the latter day church will be inward looking and “grow cold” (Matthew 24:12). The prophetic word should therefore warn us against procrastination.

“Too often this prophetic word has been abused by those who are only interested in speculation and entertainment”

Rev. Malcolm Hedding

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem • Comforting Israel, Educating the Church
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

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
Nashville, TN 37244

Or make your tax-deductible gift online:
www.icejusa.org

Upcoming Seminars & Speaking Events

Algood, TN
Trinity Assembly
Sunday Feb. 20 @ 8.30/10.30am
205 West Wall Street
Algood, TN 38506
Malcolm Hedding

Panola, OK
Discerning the Times
Saturday Feb. 26 @ 9am
Panola School Auditorium
2105 Panola Road
Panola, OK 74559
Larry Booth, Ron & Carol Cantrell

Sewickley, PA
Such a Time/Corrie Ten Boom
Friday March 11 @ 7pm
Saturday March 12 @ 9am
St. Stephen’s Church
405 Frederick Ave.
Sewickley, PA 15143
Carrie Burns & Susie Sandager

Florence, AL
Understanding Israel
Saturday April 9 @ 9am
Grace House, 946 Florence Road
Florence, AL 35630
Susan Michael, Daryl Hedding & Michael Hines

Red Oak, OK
Beth-El Baptist Church
Thursday Feb. 24 @ 7pm
Friday Feb. 25 @ 7pm
210 NW Ash, Red Oak, OK 74563
Larry Booth, Ron & Carol Cantrell

Space Coast, FL
Understanding Israel
Saturday March 5 @ 9am
Destiny Christian Church
700 S. Courtenay Parkway
Merritt Island, FL 32952
Larry Booth & John Small

Warren-Youngstown, OH
Such a Time/Corrie Ten Boom
Friday March 25 @ 7pm
Saturday March 26 @ 9am
Jewish Community Center
505 Gypsy Lane
Youngstown, OH 44504
Carrie Burns & Susie Sandager

Schedule an ICEJ Speaker or Seminar today!
For more details call Teresa at: (615) 895-9830.
www.icejusa.org
New Year Call to Prayer

“The world is moving into difficult times, but we are people of hope”

Dr Jürgen Bühler

As we move into the new year, the world, and in particular Israel, are facing some new and severe challenges. Here in Jerusalem we decided to start the year with a special period of prayer and fasting. There are some pressing issues which affect Israel and our ministry in the Land.

Israel currently faces an unprecedented tsunami of international hostility. An increasing number of mostly Latin American countries are setting a precedent in officially recognizing a Palestinian state, while at the same time the campaign to delegitimize Israel is gathering momentum. Above all looms the nuclear threat of Iran and a tense relationship with the present US administration.

Furthermore, the moral and spiritual situation in Israel is alarming. Tel Aviv is being marketed as the “pink city” of Israel, officially inviting gay tourism to the holy land. Israel’s leadership is shaken by corruption and other scandals. The way in which Israel deals with minorities like Messianics, Arabs, Sudanese and all foreigners in general is of great concern. The recent ruling of 70 senior Rabbis in Israel not to rent property to non-Jews is alarming.

Of great concern is the current situation in the Republic of Ivory Coast. The country is in chaos with two rival presidents after a disputed recent election. The international community is backing the Muslim President over the incumbent and civil war may result. This is a serious matter for us, as the Embassy rents its premises from the Ivory Coast.

Many more concerns could be added, including Israel’s chronic water shortage and the daily challenges facing our own ongoing ministry here in Jerusalem. But whilst the world is moving into more difficult times, we are a people of hope. This motivates our prayers. God promises us through the Prophet Daniel: “…but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”

Note the context of that promise! Daniel sees the climax of the end times with the Antichrist on the rise. But Daniel doesn’t see a defeated people of God - in the midst of it all he declares “those who know their God will carry out great exploits.” It is crucial, therefore, for us to know our God and to trust that He will continue to use us to carry out great exploits. Therefore let us all draw closer to God!

We decided to start the year with a day of fasting and prayer each Wednesday in January. Besides our regular staff devotions we held prayer meetings in the morning, at noon and in afternoon. On January 26th we concluded that special period with a 24 hour prayer watch, joined by our national directors, staff and hundreds of friends and supporters around the world.

For over 30 years, our ministry has been undergirded by the faithful prayers of God’s people around the world. We deeply appreciate all those that signed up online to participate in this special season of prayer. Above all, we urge you to pray for the city of Jerusalem, the people of Israel and the ministry of the ICEJ throughout 2011.

Dr. Jürgen Bühler serves as ICEJ International Director and lives with his family in Jerusalem

Don’t miss the latest Project News and Prayer Alerts from Israel!
Sign up at: www.icejusa.org
**Time to Act Now**

**Dr. Jürgen Bühler**

**Remembering the Past, Shaping the Future** is a powerful slogan for Yad Vashem, Israel’s revered Holocaust memorial and museum.

Our Christian past indeed has a lot to teach us about working towards a better future. The tragic history of Christian anti-Semitism and in particular the Holocaust holds many lessons. Yet too often we focus on our own individual past and we are always hoping for a brighter future, all the while overlooking the pressing issues of today. The events of this year should have alarm bells ringing in our spirits. The lessons of the past are not for some distant future but for today! More people need to be educated when we see the rising tide of hostility against Israel and Jews worldwide.

**A Troubling Year**

The year 2010 was one of the most challenging years for Israel ever. It began with a wave of “apartheid weeks” on university campuses all across North America aimed at branding Israel a “racist regime” as existed in former South Africa. International artists began cancelling their appearances in Israel in protest of Israeli policies. Foreign companies started disinvesting from Israeli firms. Leading unionists, leftists and gay rights groups linked hands with Muslim extremists in promoting the “Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions” campaign against Israel.

In Malmö, Sweden the small Jewish community has been violently harassed by radical Muslim elements. The local synagogue was firebombed, its windows smashed. The mayor of the liberal Swedish city advised Jewish residents that they would be more secure if they would denounce Israeli actions in Gaza.

Late last May, a Turkish flotilla provoked a violent clash at sea with IDF forces in an unnecessary attempt to break the Gaza blockade. The tragic incident unleashed a flood of international condemnations against Israel as well as another Goldstone-style UN inquiry meant to deprive Israelis of the right of self-defence.

Meanwhile, world leaders deplored the “humanitarian crisis” in the Gaza Strip and some media described it as one big concentration camp, ignoring the ample supply of food and aid provided daily by Israel. The episode even drew a rare rebuke of Israel from the German Bundestag which was unique in its unanimity among all parties Left and Right.

In July, a gang of vandals were acquitted by a British court for breaking into an arms factory and causing heavy damage in protest against Israel’s incursion into Gaza in winter 2009, after the judge instructed jury members it was okay to think that Israel had turned Gaza into “hell on earth.”

In September of last year, EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht told Belgian TV that the “Jewish lobby” is responsible for a lack of peace with the Palestinians and charged that it is “not easy to have, even with moderate Jews, a rational discussion about what is actually happening in the Middle East.”

In October, the Norwegian government informed a German shipbuilding company that submarines it had manufactured for Israel could no longer be tested in Norwegian waters, part of a new ban on security exports to Israel.

Later the same month, eight countries boycotted the annual OECD conference because it was held in Jerusalem. These nations included Turkey, Belgium, Iceland, New Zealand, Sweden, Ireland and South Africa.

Then, just a few weeks later at a synod of Catholic bishops from the Middle East, the secretary for the gathering blamed Israel for the exodus of Christians from the region and further stated: “We Christians cannot speak about the promised land for the Jewish people. There is no longer a chosen people.”
An Unholy Alliance

The list of such anti-Israel incidents this past year alone is seemingly endless. Israel today is increasingly isolated by a global campaign to delegitimize the very existence of the Jewish State. While Jews in most Western countries enjoy protection, the new threat against the Jewish people is anti-Israelism. As long as Jews refrain from supporting the state of Israel, they are safe. This is the message from Malmö and all across Europe. Undermining the Jewish state has become trendy in parliaments, publishing houses and institutions of higher learning. And those of us who defend the only free democracy in the Middle East are demonized as a threat to world peace.

On the streets of Europe and elsewhere, an unholy alliance is being formed between radical leftists and Islamic extremists. Even Evangelical churches are being influenced by this new brand of anti-Semitism. These are days in which we need to act. If we do not apply the lessons from the past in the present, then the future will be even bleaker.

Not Just a Museum

The reason the ICEJ decided to partner with Yad Vashem to establish a Desk for Christian Friends of that prestigious institution is foremost directed at preventing another Holocaust. Yad Vashem is not only geared towards remembering the past, but it carries a powerful message for the present and future.

Yad Vashem works on three fronts which are all crucial to making a difference in our day:

1) **Remembrance** – Yad Vashem gives the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust a place of memory and honor. It documents their lives as ordinary citizens of Europe, as well as the demons of nationalism, racism and anti-Semitism which brought destruction upon them.

2) **Education** – Countless people have been through the educational programs at Yad Vashem, whether students, soldiers, teachers, scholars, politicians or ordinary tourists. In recent years, the Christian Desk has worked to make sure this regularly includes pastors and spiritual leaders from all over the world, who are being educated not only about the past but how to apply the lessons of history to our times. Its renowned educational programs combined with meetings with Israeli officials offer effective tools to every minister and church leader to face the new challenges of today.

3) **Recognition** – Yad Vashem keeps not only the memory of the victims alive but it is dedicated to recognizing those “Righteous among the Nations” who risked their lives to take a stand on behalf of the truth and who saved lives during the darkest hours of the Shoah. Their sacrifices live on today thanks to Yad Vashem, inspiring future generations.

The Christian Embassy’s partnership with Yad Vashem is therefore a crucial part of the work of the ICEJ to which we will always be committed. We want to invite you to join us today in this great cause. The time has truly come to act!

Learn more about becoming a Christian Friend of Yad Vashem at: [www.icejusa.org](http://www.icejusa.org).
The Bleeding of Iraqi Christians

As congregants are massacred, traditionalist clerics ignore Islam, blame Israel

The world was shocked by the recent news of an al-Qaeda terror cell’s brutal bloodbath inside a Baghdad cathedral in late October. Radical Muslim militiamen stormed the church and held dozens of people hostage while issuing a litany of far-ranging demands, including the release of several Egyptian women who allegedly had converted to Islam and were being held against their will by the Coptic Church. In an ensuing shootout with Iraqi police, the al-Qaeda gunmen slaughtered 44 Christian worshippers, two priests and seven security personnel.

This cruel atrocity was followed by a series of ongoing Islamist attacks targeting Baghdad’s Christian neighborhoods, including a string of thirteen coordinated bombings two weeks later that claimed another six lives, sowing panic among the dwindling members of this two millennia-old Christian community, many of whom openly spoke of fleeing.

In actuality, Iraq’s ancient Christian community has been under brutal assault by radical Islamic elements for several years now, an easy prey in the chaotic aftermath of the US-led invasion.

While achieving its objective of toppling the despotic regime of Saddam Hussein, that conflict was deliberately prolonged by global jihadists who decided to make Iraq the central battleground of their embittered campaign against the free, democratic world. Native Iraqi Christians, in their minds, were nothing more than traitorous allies of the ‘Crusader’ West.

Thus, five churches were bombed in Baghdad on one Sunday alone in 2004. Christians have been regularly kidnapped and held for ransom, Christian shops torched, priests beheaded, and Christian women beaten for “un-Islamic” dress. Iraqi Christians have even been targeted for perceived offenses against Islam committed thousands of miles away, as in the case of the Danish cartoon riots in 2005 and the Pope’s remarks on Islam in September 2006.

While all segments of Iraqi society have suffered in this violence-plagued period, the Christian suffering has been disproportionate, as has been their emigration abroad, according to reports by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. In under a decade, the Chaldean, Assyrian, Syriac, Armenian, and Protestant

‘The reality is that Iraq’s ancient Christian community has been under brutal assault by radical Islamic elements for several years’

David Parsons
flocks in Iraq have declined from an estimated 1.4 million to roughly half that number. The Christian presence in Baghdad is now one-third of its former strength.

Other Christian minorities throughout the Middle East have experienced similar attrition rates over recent decades be it the Egyptian Copts, (themselves the victims of a series of brutal massacres over the recent Christmas period) Lebanese Maronites, or the Greek Orthodox faithful in Jordan, Syria and the Palestinian areas. It is Israel’s growing Christian population that is the lone exception in the region. Thus, the unprecedented Christian exodus from Arab lands has become a serious cause for concern among Western church hierarchies, and was slated to be a major topic of discussion at the Vatican’s recent Synod of Catholic bishops from the Middle East. In fact, a ground-breaking document compiled ahead of that gathering identified “political Islam” – for the first time – as the prevailing reason for the Christian flight.

Yet by the time the Middle East bishops concluded their two-week summit in Rome, anti-Israel agitators among them had somehow swayed the entire lot to blame all their problems on the Jews.

The Synod’s concluding ‘Message’ barely mentioned the main problems plaguing their congregations, such as the rise of radical Islam and official as well as societal constraints on religious freedom. Instead, they issued a plea for the international community to work “to put an end to the occupation” of Palestinian territories, thus spotlighting Israel as their main source of torment.

Archbishop Cyril Salim Bustros, head of the Greek Melkite Church in America, went even further in his comments made while introducing the Synod’s final communiqué. He insisted that it was “unacceptable” for Israel to take “recourse to biblical positions which use the Word of God to wrongly justify injustices,” a statement lifted directly from the ‘Message’ itself. He also maintained that, “We Christians cannot speak of the ‘Promised Land’ as an exclusive right for a privileged Jewish people... This promise was nullified by Christ... There is no longer a chosen people.”

A Vatican spokesman tried to brush aside his undignified remarks as an “individual” view, ignoring the fact that Bustros was speaking as the official secretary for the Synod.

The absurdity of this clerical charade was laid bare by the Baghdad cathedral massacre just a few days hence, as it would have been incredibly hard to blame that tragedy on Israel. Ironically, Bustros is bishop over a growing Greek Melkite Church in the United States precisely because so many from his denomination have been squeezed out of their home parishes by Islamic extremism that has been left unchecked by indifferent Arab rulers. Yet could you ever imagine Bustros upbraiding Muslim leaders for taking “recourse to the Koran to wrongly justify injustices.”

Middle East Christians do not expect a modern-day Baldwin to come riding in at the head of an army of deliverance. But they are looking for some honest acknowledgement of their suffering and its true inflictors, as well as some measure of hope to sustain them if they choose to stay. Perhaps a concerted dose of Western diplomacy on their behalf would help stop the bleeding.

David Parsons is ICEJ Media Director and Contributing Christian Editor of The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition. 
This article was first published by The Jerusalem Post.
Learn more: www.jpost.com/ce
No, true believers will be seduced and turned away from the faith. This implies a spiritual assault of great proportions against the people of God. We must be warned and armed!

Again in 2 Timothy 3:1-7 he warns that in the latter days “fierce times” will come because Christians will be obsessed with themselves. Their love of God will be a hobby and it will always play “second fiddle” to their own interests! These days are upon us. We need to wake up and ensure that we are seeking first the Kingdom of God!

The Words of John

John had much to say about the prophetic word as he was given the awesome vision that we have recorded in our Bibles as The Revelation. His message to the Seven Churches of Asia is a warning against lawlessness, immorality, disobedience and lukewarmness. His visions of the world in upheaval reminds us that God is in control of all things and that, through a process of judgment seen on the earth as natural catastrophes, he will bring about His triumph and thus “the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our world and of His Christ” (Revelation 11:15).

John sees that this time of upheaval and uncertainty will require the patience of the saints (Revelation 14:12). Moreover, they will have to reject deception and keep their eyes on a heavenly city that will be their inheritance and eternal home. The struggles of their earthly sojourn will fade away as they hold dear the heavenly vision (Revelation 21:1-8). The prophetic word will not entertain or amuse them but it will fortify and prepare them to face and walk through the struggles of the “end of days.” It will be their ‘road-map’ constantly guiding them and renewing their faith in Jesus. The prophetic word enlightens our way but it should and must encourage us to make Jesus Lord! (Revelation 19:10)

Malcolm Hedding is ICEJ Executive Director and travels extensively teaching Christians around the world about God’s purpose for Israel, the Church and the Nations in the critical days in which we live.

“...the prophetic word is a light shining in a dark place, a ‘GPS System’ that testifies to the unfolding purpose and plan of God…”

Make a request for Malcolm Hedding and the ICEJ speaking team to minister in your Church this year!

For more information call Teresa at: (615) 895-9830