On the eve of Israel's annual Holocaust Remembrance Day last month, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem joined its local charitable partner Yad Ezer L'Haver in Haifa in opening the second phase of the nation's largest assisted-living home solely committed to caring for destitute Holocaust survivors. Besides housing dozens of well-deserving residents, the newest building will also contain a medical clinic and dental clinic to provide free health care to Holocaust survivors from throughout northern Israel.

Over the past year, the Christian Embassy has been funding the expansion of the Yad Ezer assisted-living facility in Haifa for impoverished Holocaust survivors, which originally housed 14 residents. The ICEJ has now purchased and renovated two apartment buildings on either side of the original home, and the enlarged complex is able to accommodate up to 125 residents, as well as to feed and provide medical care for hundreds of additional survivors in the Haifa area.

The second new building was officially opened in late April in the presence of Minister of Social Welfare Moshe Kahalon, MK David Azoulay, MK Gila Gamliel, Chief Rabbi of Haifa (Ashkenazi) Sha’ar Yeshuv Cohen, and other Israeli dignitaries. Several hundred Holocaust survivors were also among the guests in attendance.

This unique project is a model for dealing with the growing national problem of poor and needy survivors of the Shoah.

An estimated 200,000 Holocaust survivors currently live in Israel, and up to one-third of these are in dire financial straits, often due to huge medical bills.

The expanded “warm home” will now provide 125 survivors with all their lodging, food and medical care for free, with doctors and nurses from area hospitals volunteering to cover their health needs. A community kitchen and dining room is already being used to feed dozens of additional Holocaust survivors who live nearby. And in the latest development, the ground floor of the newest building will also house a free medical and dental clinic for Haifa area survivors, to be operated by Ramban Hospital.

More than 2,000 applicants, mostly survivors of Nazi death camps in Poland and Germany, have signed up on the waiting list for a place to stay in the expanded facility. A careful selection process has identified the most worthy tenants based on need.

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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

Spring, TX
North Central Church
Sun. June 12th: 9am; 11am; 6pm
25130 Aldine Westfield Road
Spring, TX 77373
Michael Hines

Baltimore, MD
Understanding Israel
Sat. June 18th: 9am-12.30pm
Trinity Assembly of God
2122 West Joppa Rd.
Lutherville, MD 21093
Larry Booth & John Small

Alva, FL
First Baptist Church of Alva
Sunday June 26th: 10am
2790 Joel Boulevard
Alva, FL 33920
Michael Hines

Albuquerque, NM
For Such a Time as This
Sat. June 18th: 9am-12.30pm
Faith Lutheran Church
10000 Spain Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111
Carrie Burns & Susie Sandager

Destin, FL
Living Word Ministries
Saturday June 18th: 6pm
446 D Racetrack Road
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32549
Michael Hines

Algood, TN
Church on the Hill
Wednesday July 6th: 6.30pm
3001 Phillips Cemetery Rd
Algood, TN 38506
Malcolm Hedding

Schedule an ICEJ Speaker or Seminar today!
For more details call Teresa at: (615) 895-9830
www.icejusa.org
I am excited as we join with brothers and sisters from around the globe to pray again for Israel. I am excited not because all is well with Israel or with the nations. On the contrary - a look at our world shows a desperate situation. Israel is being pressured from all sides, anti-Semitism is mounting and natural forces seem to be unleashed causing havoc all around the globe.

But I am excited because we know: “...greater is He who is in us than He who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). Ask God to open your eyes to see the true reality around you. Just looking at the natural situation can often be frustrating, and yes, even depressing.

One morning the Israelite city of Dothan found itself surrounded by the Aramean enemy army. The servant of the great prophet Elisha ran to his master to bring him the devastating news. Surprisingly Elisha wasn’t distressed but calmly told his young servant not to worry, “for those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (2 Kings 6:16).

When Elisha finally started to intercede for the situation, his prayers were not the powerful enemy army which threatened the city, but rather, for his poor and shaken servant. Elisha uttered a simple but powerful prayer: “O LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see” (2 Kings 6:17). And that dramatically changed the situation for the servant. The servant suddenly became excited. It wasn’t because the enemies disappeared but God gave him a new perspective of the situation.

“And the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he saw; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha” (2 Kings 6:17). Now as we enter into a season of prayer for Israel let this be our first prayer, that God will open our spiritual eyes to see the reality of God in all the complex situations which surround us, our nations and Israel.

Let us start our prayer with worshiping our God who is the Almighty, omnipresent and omnipotent God. He is the God who sits on the throne; the God who removes and appoints kings; the God who with one mere word can change everything around us according to His divine purpose. This is the God to whom we pray. Let us approach His throne today with confidence.

Dr. Jürgen Bühler serves as ICEJ International Director and lives with his family in Jerusalem. Sign up for latest project news and Isaiah 62 Prayer Alerts from Israel at: www.icejusa.org

Prayer Points for Israel
- Pray for wisdom for the Israeli government in response to the new ‘unity’ pact between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas in Gaza.
- Pray particularly for Prime Minister Netanyahu who is facing increased international pressure to make unprecedented concessions in order to pave the way towards Palestinian statehood. “Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority...” (1 Timothy 2: 1-2).

For the International Community
- The Bible is full of warnings to the nations that participate in the division of the land of Israel
- To that end it is vital that we pray for US President Barack Obama and other prominent leaders in the international community that they would not seek to impose a solution that would lead them into conflict with God.
- We pray for the leaders of our nations according to 1 Timothy 2, asking God to stay His hand of judgment a little longer so that more might be saved “and come to the knowledge of the truth.”

For the Ministry of the ICEJ
- For our branches around the world; for anointing, vision and open doors to churches.
- Also for the ongoing support and success of our various aid projects in Israel. God has been faithful but we trust that he wants to increase and expand our borders of influence (Isaiah 54:2-3).
Sarah Zamir
Survivor profile by Birte Sholtz

Haifa Home resident Sarah Zamir was born under the name Ilse Böhm in January 1928 near Breslau, Germany (part of Poland today). Sarah’s family were observant Jews and her father worked as an attorney.

In 1939, Sarah, her parents, her brother, her grandmother and one of her aunts fled Nazi persecution for Belgium. They arrived in Antwerp as refugees, and thus were not allowed to work. They were even arrested for a while. With hostilities already declared against Hitler’s regime, Sarah’s father was transferred to a camp in southern France because he had fought on the German side in World War I. Sarah never saw him again.

The German army invaded Belgium in May 1940, and Sarah and other local Jews were eventually put into forced labor camps. One could survive in these camps, Sarah recalls, but there was little food and many workers starved to death.

She was 14 years old when her family was finally deported. Her mother and brother later died in a concentration camp, most likely in Auschwitz. But Sarah had been hidden by Belgian Catholics who helped her secure a new identity. She had blonde hair and blue eyes, making it easier for her to pose as a non-Jew. But she was always afraid of being ‘discovered’, especially after her foster family began receiving hate mail warning, “We know you are hiding a Jewish girl!”

So Sarah was enrolled in a private boarding school for girls, where she remained until the Germans were driven out of Belgium in autumn of 1944.

As the Second World War came to an end, Sarah was still only a teenager and decided to stay on with her Catholic foster family and work in their business. But some of the fellow workers were anti-Semitic and berated her host family for helping Jews. The Catholic family offered to adopt Sarah but she did not want to change religions. So some Jewish friends advised her to move to Eretz Israel.

Sarah registered for aliyah and arrived in Mandate Palestine in late 1945 as part of a Zionist youth group. In 1953, Sarah married Asher Zamir. Before he passed away, the couple had six children, numerous grandchildren, plus four great grandchildren at last count.

At least once a month, family members now come to visit Sarah in the Haifa Home for Holocaust survivors. She moved into the home because her small retirement and widow’s pensions could not meet all her living expenses and medical bills.

Sarah is quite comfortable and happy to be living at the Haifa Home. “The most important thing is to have people around you and that you get help,” she says.

Learn more about the Haifa Home: www.icejusa.org/haifa

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The ICEJ’s involvement in this urgent humanitarian project is part of its increased focus on reaching out to elderly Holocaust survivors in Israel. The Christian Embassy has been giving new emphasis in recent years on helping to ease their suffering and allowing them to live out their years with dignity, whether through adoption programs, special assistance at holidays, or investment in initiatives like the Yad Ezer facility.

“We are pleased to be able to reach out once more to these precious Jewish people who were subjected to such unspeakable horrors and evil during the Holocaust,” said Rev. Malcolm Hedding, Executive Director of the ICEJ. “We can never fully know or understand the depths of what they went through but we can give them hope, love, care and most of all dignity.”

“We are especially proud that much of the funding for this unique project came from German Christians, who decided to help shoulder their national responsibility and debt to the Jewish people with this warm home for Holocaust survivors,” added ICEJ International Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler, who also heads the Embassy’s...
Reuven Bronzberg
Survivor profile by David Parsons

When he was only six years old, Reuven Bronzberg recalls that Joseph Mengele paid a visit to the beleaguered Warsaw Ghetto. That day, he witnessed the evil Nazi doctor rip a new-born Jewish infant apart with his bare hands. Such are Reuven’s childhood memories.

Soon after, the rest of Reuven’s family were deported and he suddenly found himself all alone. He fled before the Warsaw ghetto uprising and was taken in by some partisans operating in the Polish forests. They quickly put him to use.

The partisans were planning to bomb a nearby train station on a line where Jews were being transported to concentration camps. They tied a pistol to Reuven’s hand and taped his finger on the trigger, to make sure he would fire it properly. Then he was told to walk up to an unsuspecting German guard and shoot.

“I raised the gun, pulled my finger back and started running. I did not stay around to see if he was shot,” said Reuven. “But I heard an explosion and that meant no more trains for a while.”

This was all too heavy for young Reuven, so he was hidden with a Christian woman in the basement of her farm house.

“I was eight years old and finally had the first taste of real milk in my life,” he recalled. “Without that lady, I would have died. I owe my life to her and to God.”

He spent months on end in the basement, cooped up with ducks and other farm animals and sleeping in a pile of hay until the end of the war.

Even with Germany defeated, Reuven experienced hostility against Jewish refugees in post-war Poland. Still only eleven years old and on his own, he survived by taking food handouts from the Joint Distribution Committee and selling it on the black market. Somehow, the JDC was also able to locate his parents alive in a Soviet camp in faraway Siberia and they were reunited.

Reuven made aliyah to Israel on a ship from Italy in 1948 and immediately joined the fight against Egyptian forces at Yad Mordechai, near Ashdod.

Today, Reuven is 78, retired, and lives in Haifa near the survivor’s home. He comes daily to eat lunch and be with fellow survivors. He was recently given a joyous bar mitzvah ceremony at the home’s synagogue – some 65 years late. He hopes to soon become a full-fledged resident of the Haifa Home.

Support ICEJ AID Efforts in Israel:
www.icejusa.org/aid
E ven a brief glance at the New Testament will reveal that the Second Coming of Jesus was never far from the mind and hearts of those earliest Christian believers. The question we have to ask some two thousand years later is, “Were they wrong?” Did they have an expectation of the soon return of Jesus that was misguided? For instance, even Paul, when writing to the Corinthian church about marriage, stated that in view of the “impending distress” it is better not to marry. He felt that time was short and that therefore the believers needed to fix their hope fully on the soon coming of Jesus.

**Progressive prophetic fulfilment**

From Jesus’ Olivet discourse, the disciples recognised that certain signs in the region and in the world would indicate the soon coming of Jesus. These are: a temple would be standing in Jerusalem; a global world power would invade the city of Jerusalem; the Holy of Holies would be desecrated; great distress would befall the region; and believers would have to flee and find shelter. Then, Jesus would come!

They saw all of these signs flashing and growing with each passing day. The “Day of the Lord” was surely upon them! They were therefore both right and wrong, since it is clear from Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21 that the events about which Jesus spoke entailed two fulfilsments. One occurred in AD 70 and another was yet in the future. Paul is clear, as is John, that the Anti-Christ who desecrates the Temple is destroyed by the visible real coming of Jesus a second time. We are dealing here with what Bible scholars refer to as “progressive prophetic fulfilment.” That is, one vision having two fulfilsments over time!

These same circumstances have not come together again until our day!

**The signs of the end**

While there have always been wars, rumours of wars, conflicts and natural upheavals, it was not until 1948 that the crucial building block of a Jewish return to Jerusalem fell into place again. Jesus cited this as the validating sign of His near coming (Luke 21:24).

Now today, as it was in AD 70, there is once again a growing global campaign against a Jewish Jerusalem and indeed a campaign to delegitimize Israel and dismantle her. Conflict and wars are everywhere and great earthquakes and natural upheavals are a familiar occurrence. It is the first time in 2000 years that these “signs” are manifesting again. Like the disciples of Paul’s day, we should look up because our “redemption draws nigh” (Luke 21:28). Jesus is coming and about this we should not have any doubts at all!

**The miracle of Israel’s restoration is the validating sign of Jesus’ return. And yet the Bible indicates that when it does takes place, it will provoke great international resistance.**
The miracle of Israel’s restoration is the validating sign heralding the return of our dear Lord. It is also true that the Word of God portrays Israel’s restoration as taking place amidst great international resistance to it. The nations will eventually mobilize, as they did in AD 70, against Jerusalem and they will try to remove it from Jewish hands (Zechariah 12). They will be thwarted and Jesus will return in glory and splendour to set up His throne in Jerusalem and from which He will rule the nations with a “rod of iron” (Revelation 19:15).

The hope of the Church

This glorious hope of Jesus’ return (Titus 2:11-13) serves to keep the Church pure and clean. It is when we lose this hope that we sleep spiritually and begin to get entangled in worldly affairs. Jesus warned about this in His parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13).

It is always fascinating to note that every time scripture refers to the Second Coming of Jesus, it invites us to embrace an appropriate spiritual response. So Jesus says, “watch and pray” (Mark 13:33-37).

John, in his first epistle, also tells us that if we hold the hope of Jesus’ return in our hearts, we should “purify ourselves” (1 John 3:1-3). That is, live clean and godly lives!

In his first epistle, Peter writes that because the “end of all things is at hand,” we should be loving, prayerful and engaged in the Lord’s business (1 Peter 4:7-10).

Finally, Paul not only greets his readers with the words Maranatha (“the Lord is coming” – 1 Corinthians 16:22), but he also exhorts believers, who have lost believing loved ones, to fix their hope on the Second Coming of Jesus when they will be resurrected to meet Him in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

The Second Coming of Jesus thus keeps the Church spiritually healthy and when we ignore it we do the people of God a disservice. Now more than ever, Christians should be gazing into heaven and preparing their lives to welcome Jesus back.

“Behold He is coming and every eye will see Him.” These words greet us in the very first chapter of the book of Revelation. This passage goes on to say that “all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him” (Revelation 1:7). Why would they mourn over such a wonderful event? Because they never embraced Him or prepared their lives to welcome Him on the day of His return.

Jesus also warned in his Olivet discourse that the love of many would grow cold (Matthew 24:12). This can only be a reference to Christians who have taken their spiritual eyes off His soon return! May He not be talking about anyone of us!

The mode of His coming

Though many so-called theologians have tried to deny it in recent years, the Bible teaches that Jesus will come visibly and physically to the Mount of Olives. As He went, so He will come again and thus His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which is to the east of Jerusalem (Acts 1:9-11).

His visible coming will be with great glory and the whole world will see this glory as it flashes from the east to the west (Matthew 24:27). As He descends from Heaven in triumph to reign and rule over the nations, a great trumpet blast will take place and the dead in Christ and all believers then alive will rise to meet Him (Matthew 24:30-31; Revelation 2:27-28, 12:5). What a wonderful day this will be and so no wonder we are to get ready as we now see it approaching! (Hebrews 10:25) 🙏

Rev. Malcolm Hedding serves as ICEJ Executive Director in Jerusalem