September 2011 may well go down as one of the most pivotal moments in Israel's modern history.

It was already earmarked as a key date on the regional calendar due to the diplomatic confrontation over Palestinian statehood at the United Nations. The Palestinian Authority refused to back down from its reckless unilateral push for a state along the pre-1967 lines, despite the welcome commitment by US President Barack Obama to veto the measure in the Security Council. The PA’s official calls for mass marches on Israeli towns and checkpoints in the wake of the UN decision were already inviting chaos and bloodshed.

But then suddenly last month, Israel’s ambassadors in both Egypt and Turkey were unceremoniously chased from Cairo and Ankara within days of each other. Each nation is a regional power with long-standing security ties and shared concerns with Israel. Yet decades of prodigious efforts to forge close relations, often against the popular will of their peoples, may now be down the drain.

As the Palestinians sow the seeds of another intifada, longstanding strategic ties with Egypt and Turkey risk being irreversibly severed.

Only time will tell if this is indeed a Rubicon moment for Israel, as the Palestinians sow the seeds of another intifada and strategic ties built up over many years with Egypt and Turkey now face the risk of being irreversibly severed. Even worse, the region could be slipping towards an unthinkable war.

The Islamist party ruling Turkey has been on a deliberate collision course with Israel for years now and finally found the right pretext for breaking off its decades-long strategic alliance with Jerusalem over the Mavi Marmara flotilla raid last year.

Ankara has demanded an apology and compensation over the flotilla incident, as well as a complete lifting of the Gaza arms blockade. Israel has concluded that these demands are so excessive, it can only mean the Turks really do not want to reconcile.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has responded by suspending all military ties and government-related trade with Israel. The Israeli ambassador was given two days to pack and leave. More ominously, Erdogan threatened to dispatch Turkish warships to escort aid convoys bound for Gaza.

Israeli leader Binyamin Netanyahu has sought to “lower the flames”, but Erdogan turned up the rhetoric by claiming the Gaza flotilla incident was “grounds for war.”

>> CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
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.

Upcoming ICEJ Seminars & Speaking Events

Virginia Beach, VA

For Such a Time as This
October 3rd: 1pm - 4.30pm
Regent University
1000 Regent University Dr.
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
Carrie Burns & Susie Sandager

Jerusalem/Ein Gedi, Israel

Israel, A Light to the Nations
2011 Feast of Tabernacles
October 13th-18th, 2011
Int’l Convention Center
Jerusalem, Israel
with Special Guest Angus Buchan

Dayton, OH

Daryl Hedding
Oct. 28/29th: 6.30pm/9am
Beavercreek Church of the Nazarene
1850 N. Fairfield Rd.
Beavercreek, OH 45432

Did you know ICEJ Speakers are available to visit your community?

Bringing a Balanced Biblical Perspective on Israel to the Church
Call Teresa for more information: (615) 895-9830

Don’t miss the 2011 Feast of Tabernacles...

Watch the Feast!
October 13 - 18 2011

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Transformational Times

As we pray for Israel, the Middle East is undergoing a transformational process; the face of the region is changing before our eyes! Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has just emerged from a heated and historic session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in which the Palestinians demanded the world grant them statehood while refusing to recognize Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people. Meanwhile, all across the Middle East, nations are redefining how they govern themselves and how they position themselves towards Israel. Some commentators within Israel itself speak of the worst crisis facing the nation for many years. It is, for sure, a time for prayer.

Just returning from a brief visit to the United States, I also witnessed grave concern in that great nation and heard the same thing from many people: “The USA is becoming more and more secular and is abandoning its Christian heritage.” It is similar to the transformation we have seen take place in Europe over the course of the past century; a transformation that has seen nation after nation reject their Christian past and embrace a ‘post-Christian’ future. It is, for sure, a time for prayer!

Yet, we need to understand that in these difficult times there is huge potential for change; I truly believe that it still lies in the hands of the Church today to turn the tide.

Turning the Tide

Millions of believers in Europe and even more in the United States have the most powerful of tools at their disposal: Faithful prayer! If the people of God turn to God with all their hearts and rededicate their lives fully to Jesus, then the Word of God promises us that he “will hear from heaven, and will forgive [our] sin and heal [our] land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Remember it only took 120 faithful disciples who were filled with the Spirit of God on the Day of Pentecost to impact the world. And they did so to such an extent that, years later when Paul started his ministry in the city of Thessaloniki, the mob cried out: “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too” (Acts 17:6). What a testimony!

If we want to see the tide to turn in the Middle East and believe for revival in this dark region of the world; if we expect the tide to turn in the USA, Europe or wherever we live, then we need to seek the face of God and pray. It is prayer which gives divine authority to our words and actions. Jesus promises us that it is the prayer of faith which can move the greatest mountain (Mark 11:23).

So whatever the situation you see today in the Middle East, whatever the challenge is in your country, turn to the One who says of Himself: “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18). Let us trust God for this because He is Almighty! 🙏

Prayer Points for Israel

• For wisdom and protection for Israel’s soldiers and civilians as they prepare for the prospect of renewed Palestinian violence and hostility.
• That the Palestinian people would begin to have the courage to rise up against the oppression of Islam and the lies of their leaders and pursue an honest peace with Israel.
• For a move of the Holy Spirit throughout the Palestinian territories to draw them into a relationship with Jesus – the Prince of Peace.

For the Middle East

All around Israel the Middle East is changing as longstanding alliances with some of the most influential nations in the region are being redefined, particularly Turkey & Egypt:
• Pray for the security situation along the Israeli-Egyptian border and in the Eastern Mediterranean. Pray also for protection for Israeli embassies and institutions all over the world especially as Israel’s isolation is growing.

For the Ministry of the ICEJ

Please stand with us in seeking the favor of God upon the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles Celebration in Jerusalem. Specifically let’s pray for:
• Safety and protection for the pilgrims, tour groups & volunteer staff from across the world;
• The anointing of the Holy Spirit upon the worship leaders and speakers;
• That the arrival of Christians from so many nations would be a powerful witness to Israel of Jesus - the true ‘Light of the World.’

Dr. Juergen Buehler serves as ICEJ Interim Executive Director and former International Director.

Sign up for latest project news and prayer alerts from Israel at: www.iceusa.org/isaiah62

“God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us– Selah –that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations.” (Psalm 67: 1-2)
In recent weeks, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has begun sponsoring flights to Israel for Ethiopian Jews long delayed in their hopes of moving to Zion. Israel’s government finally approved requests for aliyah from 8,700 Jews still in Ethiopia, and the ICEJ paid for 100 airline seats in late summer as the latest wave made their way home.

Many of the newcomers were anxious to reunite with family members already in Israel and the Jewish Agency arranged for an ICEJ delegation to meet new immigrants at an absorption center near Jerusalem and to witness one very bittersweet family reunion.

Our host for the day was social worker Rivka, herself an Ethiopian immigrant who arrived as part of the famous “Operation Solomon” in 1991, when over 14,000 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted to Israel in only 34 hours. As she led us through the streets of Mevasseret Zion, we saw Ethiopian children playing happily on the sidewalks, and adults greeting one another outside their homes. Some 250 families and nearly as many singles currently stay in Israel’s largest absorption center.

Alemayehu and Luluagerush live in one of the small houses at the center. A week ago, the couple at last had the opportunity to hold their youngest son Tawari and his family in their arms. They had waited five years for this moment, and had never seen their two youngest grandchildren before.

Tawari and his wife Abebech waited in the Jewish Agency’s compound in Gondar province for ten years before they and their three small children were permitted to come to Israel in August. Tawari’s sister Mamit and her little daughter, Adar, were already in Israel and also came for the family reunion.

However, the joyous moment was also bittersweet as a number of other family members were still missing, and one brother’s absence was especially tragic. Four siblings have been waiting with their families in Ethiopia to come to Israel. Two months ago, the family in Israel sent funds to Gsat, one of the brothers, to cover his journey. But he will never make the trek now, as he was viciously attacked and robbed of the money, before he was killed.

Amid the joy of finally seeing each other after so long, Mamit and Abebech also had tears running down their cheeks over the loss of Gsat.

“We are afraid that the same will happen to our other brothers and sisters when we send them money,” Mamit sobbed.

Mamit was the first member of the family to arrive in Israel when she came with her husband twelve years ago. Like many other Ethiopian Jews, she was drawn by Genesis 12:1: “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”
At the time, Mamit was 18 years old and pregnant with her first child. To go to Israel without her family was very hard. “I never dreamed that it would take seven years until my parents were allowed to make aliyah,” she said.

But Mamit came to Israel to be a part of the Jewish nation and learn more about her people’s faith. The shy young girl developed into a self-confident woman who is determined to bring the rest of her family home.

“But I hope that all my brothers and sisters also will come to Israel soon,” said Tawari. “I want to learn Hebrew, and study the laws and culture and faith of my nation. I also want to find a good job, to honorably support my family.”

Meanwhile, Mamit now has three children, speaks fluent Hebrew and enjoys her job as a social worker in a center for youth-at-risk.

“Every day, I go to the Israeli Ministry of Interior or call them,” explained Mamit. “On one hand, we are sad. But at the same time, I am bubbling over with joy,” said Tawari with a smile. “Here in Israel, I have the feeling that I am home for the first time. It is wonderful to see my parents and my sister again and be together.”

The children seemed happy with their new home. After one week in this strange country, it all feels like a big adventure. The houses, the food, the landscape, the language – everything is different!

Back in Gondar, all prospective immigrants attend a three-month program to learn Hebrew and expand their knowledge of the Jewish religion. Tawari’s family is from western Ethiopia, near Sudan. The landscape is green, and rains abound. Their home town is largely Jewish, the biblical feasts are observed, and there is a synagogue and torah schools.

After moving to Gondar to await aliyah, Tawari found occasional work and baked unleavened bread for Passover each year. Today, he is so grateful to have finally made it to the Promised Land and is full of hope for the future.

“Please help us to bring more Jewish people home to Israel from all over the world. Make your online donation to support aliyah at: www.icejusa.org/aliyah. (ICEJ AID Project Update)

ICEJ AID Project Update
Home for Holocaust Survivors

The ICEJ was honored at a special ceremony in Haifa last month for funding Israel’s largest assisted-living facility solely dedicated to caring for destitute Holocaust survivors. The gala event at the Haifa International Convention Center featured addresses by Israeli cabinet ministers Eli Yishai and Yossi Peled, German Ambassador Andreas Michaelis, and other Israeli and foreign dignitaries, who also paid tribute to some 2,000 Holocaust survivors attending the celebration as special guests.

Over the past two years, the Christian Embassy has been sponsoring the special project to purchase, renovate and expand an assisted-living facility in Haifa for impoverished Holocaust survivors, which will now be able to accommodate over 100 residents. The ICEJ has provided funds to purchase and renovate two four-storey buildings in order to greatly expand the facility, which is operated by the local charity Yad Ezer L’Haver (Helping Hand to a Friend).

Tenants began to take up residence several months ago and the phased expansion is now completed. The two dilapidated buildings have been transformed into a multipurpose complex which includes attractive living quarters, a community kitchen and dining hall, a synagogue, courtyards, and a medical and dental clinic that will also serve Holocaust survivors from throughout the Haifa area.

Doctors and nurses from area hospitals volunteer to cover the survivors’ health needs and the Home’s kitchen and dining area is also able to feed other survivors who live in the area on a daily basis.

The Holocaust Survivors are aging and the time when we can significantly help them is running out. The ongoing costs involved in caring for the residents of the Haifa Home are considerable. Support the ongoing involvement of the ICEJ in this vital project today.

Learn more & support the Haifa Home: www.icejusa.org/haifa
Looking for the Summer

By Malcolm Hedding

Chris Rea, a famous ballad/rock recording artist, once sang a song called, *Looking for the Summer*. It’s a hauntingly beautiful song that expresses the desire that we all have when Winter is giving way to Spring and the expectation of a warm, peaceful and green Summer comes over us.

For 63 years now Israel has been looking for the Summer! Her journey of Statehood has been painful and yet filled with amazing achievements in every field of human endeavour. Nevertheless, she has found herself planted in a very difficult neighbourhood and this has often brought her to the place of war and to the challenge of countering terrorism on a scale that no other nation has had to face.

Not being blessed, up until now, with vast oil reserves she has also had to withstand the hypocrisy of the Western World that has done business deals with tyrants and dictators while all the while paying part of the price by condemning Israel even though her society is ordered and set in place by democratic values that are said to be prized and valued by the West.

Take for instance the shambles over the Libyan revolution that has deposed, thankfully, Qaddafi. Official papers discovered in the ruins of the British Embassy in Tripoli have now clearly shown the double dealing, lies and dirty tricks of the former Labour government over the release of the Lockerbie Bomber etc. All for the cause of getting at Libya’s oil wealth. It was Britain that gave the Libyan dictator respectability and even offered to help Qaddafi’s sons get bogus doctorates! Now of course she together with other European governments is trying to get on the right side of history by supporting the revolution.

We could talk of Egypt and Syria in this regard as well. The latter has now murdered thousands of its own people but for decades the West tolerated the tyranny of the Assad regime and rather targeted Israel for economic, academic and political boycotts! How strange! It’s in the West that Israel Apartheid Week is held every year and it’s in the West that Israeli scholars of great repute are barred from speaking at educational institutions and, it’s in the West that Israeli politicians are threatened with arrest etc if they travel to the region.

Israel has from her very beginning been democratic and open as a society with a press that is probably the freest in the world and a judiciary that gives everyone equal protection under the law. She was birthed in what the Arab world calls the Spring, which now may just be freezing over in some places! Dictators and tyrants in the Middle East have routinely deflected attention from their own failures and crimes by attacking Israel. She is always the reason why they cannot find the Spring!

A new report just out warns that, once again, the likes of Assad with backing from Hezbollah may try to execute this formula in order to entrench the Syrian’s hold on power. They want nothing of the Spring! The same is true of Ahmadinejad and Hamas and many more. As a consequence Israel’s Defense Force is being prepared for the very real possibility of war. All the while the West, badly in need of “black gold”, allows Assad to kill his people, turns a blind eye to Hezbollah’s arms build- up on Israel’s northern border and is powerless to stop Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Israel continues to look for the Summer!

Jesus once spoke of the Fig Tree as He journeyed each day from Bethany on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives to the Temple. He said that when you see all the trees blossom and the Fig Tree then know that the Summer is near. It is clear from the context that He meant that when one sees Israel emerge again on the stage of world history one can be assured that the Summer is coming! That is, a “day” of Messianic deliverance will come and Israel will not merely survive but she will become the center of global celebration and joy. All nations will send delegations to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and nations will no longer learn or practice war.

Yes a true and wonderful Summer is coming to Israel! These are not idle words empty of any real promise and fulfillment. Just as every good promise that God ever made to Israel has come true so this coming day of Summer and rest will arrive.

It is this promise that we hold onto and that we renew every year as over a hundred nations ascend to Zion to partake in the International Christian Embassy’s great Feast of Tabernacles event. Chris Rea was right; we are looking for the Summer and though it alludes us at the moment it will come and what a Summer it will be!

Rev Malcolm Hedding is former ICEJ Executive Director and Vice-Chairman of the ICEJ’s International Board of Trustees
Light is a remarkable thing. The Bible has much to say about light and darkness. God is light and within Him there is no darkness (1 John 1:5). God shines His light into our hearts and brings into clear sight the darkness of our sins (2 Corinthians 4:6). The Bible tells us that we should live as Children in the light (Ephesians 5:8), having nothing to do with dark deeds. We as believers in Jesus are then called to shine our lights of His salvation into this dark world (Matthew 5:16). As the days get darker, now is the time more than ever when we should understand this important topic of light.

The theme for this year’s Feast of Tabernacles Celebration is “Israel a Light to the Nations” - taken from Isaiah 49:6. When looking at the topic of light in order to be effective in our days, it is important to consider the people of Israel whom the Bible says were ‘a light to the Nations.’ You may be asking how were the Jewish people a light to the Nations as only God can bring true light through Salvation?

The answer lies in the purpose and role of Israel going back to Abraham. When God called Abraham, He told Abraham that him and his descendants would be a blessing to the world. Through the Jewish people, God showed us His Character, His Law and His Light through His Son Jesus the Messiah, ‘The people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Thiers are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised!’ (Romans 9:3-5)

The Bible calls Israel a ‘light to the Nations’ because it was through them that Jesus our Lord and Saviour came to this earth to save the World! This year thousands of believers will come up to Jerusalem from every corner of the globe to show how the light of Jesus has changed our lives by the removing of our sins and our dark deeds. Those who are there will tell the Nation of Israel how their role in history has brought light and salvation to the ends of the earth. What a remarkable opportunity!

It’s amazing how light, even as small as a cell phone light, can show us the path on a very dark night. The world in which we live is increasingly engulfed in darkness, sin and rebellion toward God. People need to see the light of Jesus that saves, redeems and delivers from darkness! Maybe your light has diminished to a modern day energy saving lamp that is dull and never maximizes to full brightness. Maybe you pushed your light of salvation under a bowl afraid that someone will see it and persecute you. God’s light is more powerful than the darkness. God is calling each of us to examine our hearts again and let His light shine brightly so that others may see it and be saved!

Liesl Maas serves as Director of Grafted, the ICEJ Young Adults Program which seeks to raise up a new generation of Christians to stand with Israel. Learn more about Grafted and how to participate in the 2012 Summer ‘Hands-On’ tour to Israel (28 June-8 July) at: www.grafted.org.
Meanwhile, Israel is struggling to maintain its tenuous ties to the ruling military council in Cairo after a cross-border Palestinian terror attack near Eilat left five Egyptian troops dead in the ensuing IDF response. Angry Egyptian mobs kept storming the Israel embassy in Cairo before finally forcing Ambassador Yitzhak Levanon to flee the country.

The violent protests reflect the ingrained hostility among many Egyptians towards Israel, and it could prove difficult for Jerusalem to return to even the ‘cold peace’ with Cairo of the past three decades.

So, for Israel, there are steep challenges all around: mend fences with Turkey and Egypt, navigate the volatile Arab uprisings, renew peace talks with an obstinate Palestinian leadership, and keep vigilant watch over the looming threat of a nuclear Iran.

Whatever happens next, something about the region has already changed. For the first time since Israel was reborn in 1948, the nation faces the risk of hostilities from the other three major regional powers – Egypt, Turkey and Iran – all at the same time. Can this downward trend ever be turned around?

The surest answer is that ultimately God can and will defend Israel! We are invited to entreat the Lord in prayer to be that mighty Deliverer once again on her behalf. The greatness of the peril only means the deliverance will have to be all that much greater. So, please continue to join us in our Isaiah 62 Prayer Initiative, as we set aside every 4th Wednesday of 2011 for a special time of intercession on Israel’s behalf (see page 3).

We also encourage all our friends and supporters worldwide to continue raising up a biblical standard, by reaching out to the elected leaders in your respective countries with an appeal for fairer treatment of Israel in the international arena. By supporting a premature, unilateral Palestinian state, many nations of the world have trampled on important moral and legal principles that define the modern global order. The result will undoubtedly be fading prospects for peace, greater instability in the Middle East, and a loss of integrity for the international community.

David Parsons serves as ICEJ Media Director and lives in Jerusalem with his family.

**KEY ISSUES**

**Palestinian Statehood: Update**

“Ascribe strength to God; His excellence is over Israel, and His strength is in the clouds. O God, You are more awesome than Your holy places. The God of Israel is He who gives strength and power to His people. Blessed be God!” Psalm 68: 34-35

Last month Christians around the world were engaged in a season of fasting and prayer concerning the events at the United Nations in New York. We want to acknowledge God’s hand in ensuring that:

**The Vote was Prevented**

An attempt to force a vote on Palestinian statehood at the United Nations was prevented (at least in the short-term) through a combination of diplomacy and an unequivocal veto threat from US President Barack Obama;

**The Standoff was Defused**

A number of nations that were previously ‘on the fence’ backed away from their support for a unilateral declaration Palestinian statehood in part due to the intransigence of the Palestinian leadership and the belligerence of Mahmoud Abbas’ speech to the General Assembly;

**Israel’s Legitimacy was Defended**

Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu came across as both conciliatory and reasonable in his willingness to re-start negotiations without preconditions and used the platform of his speech to the General Assembly to make a clear and effective defense of Israel.

However, the spiritual conflict raging over the Middle East is by no means over. Mahmoud Abbas, returned from New York to Ramallah to a hero’s welcome, and called for a ‘Palestinian Spring’ - a new uprising against Israel. As a result many Israelis are fearful about the year ahead.

We need to continue to pray!

Get involved in our Isaiah 62 Prayer Campaign

[www.icejusa.org/isaiah62](http://www.icejusa.org/isaiah62)