A Leap of Faith

ARISE
ICEJ Young Adults Update
Dear Friends,

Just recently Eric Schmidt, the Executive Chairman of Google, visited Israel. Schmidt stated that there are two places which dominate our world in terms of innovation and research: Silicon Valley in California and Israel. Then he added, “However, if you really want something to get done, you have to come to Israel.”

Israel today is a hub of technological advancement. There is virtually no major high-tech company without a research lab in Israel. Whether Microsoft, Apple, Google, or Intel, they all hold major facilities in the land of the Bible. This means that their most modern, cutting-edge devices depend upon technology developed in Israel.

In other words, if you want to boycott Israel today, as some extremists are calling for, you will have to live a life void of some of the most advanced developments in science, communication, and medicine. It is safe to say that most of the appeals to boycott Israel were written on computers run by microchips developed in Tel Aviv or Haifa. In some very practical ways, Israel has become a blessing and a light to the world, and this should not surprise us.

But, there are even greater blessings which we should expect in the future. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans that the “fullness of Israel,” its spiritual restoration, will usher far greater blessings to the world than everything we have seen so far. It will be nothing short of “life from the dead,” as he states in Romans 11:15. The season of restoration that we have recently seen in Israel is pointing to the great day to come, when “the Spirit is poured upon us from on high” (Isaiah 32:15). It will usher in a great season of spiritual transformation which Peter calls “the restoration of all things” (Acts 3:21).

Until then, we are committed to do what God has called us to do, whether it is in the nations or in Israel. As the ICEJ, we are committed to stand with and pray for Israel as never before.

I hope you enjoy reading the exciting reports in this latest issue of the Word from Jerusalem. Please continue to stand with us.

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

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The anti-Israel boycott movement, commonly referred to as BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) was developed to put pressure on the Israeli government, but is currently causing more trouble for Palestinians.

By Lisa Schmid
Palestinian employees working for Israeli companies in the West Bank are already paying dearly for the effects of this campaign promoting the delegitimization of Israel.

Once production facilities move out of the Palestinian territories, as will happen with the Israeli drink maker Sodastream by the end of 2015, those employees will lose a good salary and considerable benefits. German journalist Johannes Gerloff described the paradoxical situation, pointing out that the lack of alternative employment will force many of them to sell their land mainly to Jewish landowners and to move out of the area in order to survive.

A truly systematic boycott of Israel, however, would not only have profound impacts on the Palestinians, but even life-threatening impacts on the average Western consumer. Israeli journalist Michael Ordman, author of *A List of Products & Services to Properly Boycott Israel*, points out that the full rejection of Israeli goods and services in today's world would paralyze many areas of our public and personal lives.

Based on his research, Michael Ordman suggests a short instruction manual for anyone who wants to harm Israel. If strictly followed, everyone serious about following the BDS movement will revert back decades into the pre-communication age, and may even harm their own health. Below are excerpts from his book.

**PART 1. TECHNOLOGY**

**Step 1.** Remove all Intel Pentium and Celeron processor chips from personal computers (desktops, laptops, and notebooks) as these were either developed, or manufactured in Israel.

Beware the revolutionary new Ivy Bridge processor, as this will be manufactured in Israel. Any computers running the Windows XT operating system must also be discarded immediately as this was developed in Israel. Similarly, all current Microsoft operating systems are not to be used as Microsoft is heavily reliant on its Israel R&D center.

**Step 2.** If by some miracle you still have a computer that works, it will need to have its anti-virus software and personal firewalls removed, as this technology – again – was developed in Israel. As a matter of fact, any organization’s firewall will need to be switched off as well. The staff should no longer open any external emails, considering most of them will now be infected by viruses. On top of that, no outgoing emails can be sent, as the algorithm (code) that is used today for sending emails is the work of an Israeli who worked at the Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheva in 1980.

**Step 3.** Discard all mobile phones. This technology was developed in Israel, where the first mobile phones were manufactured. The mobile chip technology from a single Israeli company has now been installed in over 100 million devices. The use of SMS (texting) is particularly forbidden, since that form of communication was also developed in Israel. No 4G devices can be used either – the chipset is an Israeli innovation.

**Step 4.** With whatever phone you may have left, turn off your voicemail service and delete any recorded messages. Israeli companies invented the voicemail system. Correspondingly, if you answer the phone to someone you do not know, you should probably hang up: Israeli call-centers and call-center technology are in widespread operation in the UK.

**Step 5.** Before accepting any printed material, check that the supplier has not used the Israeli device which saves up to 50% of the ink.

**Step 6.** If you are still able to access Facebook, don’t. That and many other similar built-in and add-on applications are likely to have been developed by Israelis. Similarly, do not watch videos on the internet, as the platform used to upload them may well be from AOL: an Israeli company. Do not use the Internet to search for answers to your questions.
either, because it may involve Israeli-developed search engines. Better to remain unenlightened.

Step 7. You should now still have your TV or home entertainment center, but do not use Video On Demand (VOD) to watch movies – you may inadvertently see an advert displayed with Israeli software. And do not purchase any game devices at all, as these are very likely to use Israeli technology.

PART 2: HEALTH

Step 1. Destroy all personal medication. Israel’s Teva Pharmaceuticals, the largest generic drugs company in the world, will have manufactured many of your medicines. On top of that, individuals with the following illnesses will need to take specific precautions:

- **Cancer** – do not take any form of medication or treatment. Israeli scientists have been working at the forefront of oncology for decades.

- **AIDS and HIV** – beware: researchers at Israel’s Weizmann Institute or Hebrew University developed or improved AZT and Hypericin-based drugs. They have also developed a treatment that destroys HIV-infected cells without damaging healthy ones.

- **Diabetes** – do not measure or inject insulin using the devices which were developed by Israeli scientists.

- **Multiple Sclerosis** – stop taking Copaxone, one of the most efficient medicines and the only non-interferon agent: it was developed by Teva.

- **Parkinson’s Disease** – remove the Israel-pioneered brain pacemaker that stops tremors. Also you should discontinue the use of Israeli-produced Levodopa, which reduces motor disturbances, and cease sessions that involve Israeli-developed magnetic cortex stimulation.

- **Heart Disease** – even if you have a family history of heart disease and arteriosclerosis, you must not use the Israeli device for early detection of these. Rather, wait until onset of the disease.

This is merely a sample of what we owe to Israeli innovation today. Ordman lists a lot more suggestions on how to protect yourself from Israel, while impairing your own life and the lives of those around you. As the Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi put it: “Whoever thinks of boycotting Israel does not understand he is harming himself and betraying his future.” 😔
ICEJ'S ISRAEL BUYER’S GUIDE

The ICEJ encourages all Christians to obtain copies of the Israel Buyer's Guide and use it to learn more about quality Israeli foods, fashion, cosmetics, consumer goods, hi-tech devices and information apps. The companies and products presented are a selective sampling of what is available in foreign markets, and more will be added in coming editions.

The Israel Buyer's Guide is now viewable on-line at: http://us.icej.org/israel-buyers-guide

You and your church can order bulk copies of the booklet from the ICEJ-USA.

And let us know what you are doing to help support Israeli businesses.

5 copies $10 + shipping
10 copies $18 + shipping
25 copies $35 + shipping
50 copies $65 + shipping
100 copies $120 + shipping
“Open the floodgates of heaven, let it rain!” - the resounding chorus of the popular worship song filled the bus as it made its way through the desert. Welcome to the 2015 Arise Summer Tour!

IN JULY, ICEJ Arise once again had the privilege of hosting 45 young adults from around the world for a tour of Israel. The diverse group represented five continents - some traveled from as far as China and Australia. For many of the young people, the tour proved to be a life changing experience where God transformed their hearts, renewed their minds by His Word, and set their lives ablaze for the spreading of the Gospel.

This year’s theme, “A Leap of Faith,” resonated with many of the participants, who testified that their journey to Israel was exactly that. Aaron from Canada wanted to visit Israel since coming to faith at a young age. In 2014, he was left heartbroken after a chance to tour Israel with his home church failed. For a whole year, he had to deal with obstacles and discouragement from others, who told him that maybe it just wasn’t meant to be.

A breakthrough came in April of this year, when Jani Salokangas, the ICEJ Arise International Director, visited Canada to meet with young adults all across the country. Jani spoke of the upcoming Arise Summer Tour, which to Aaron sounded like an answer to prayer. His dream to visit Israel would finally come true.

In true Arise fashion, the air-conditioned, but more importantly Wi-Fi enabled, bus was transporting the group, not merely to historical sites, but also to work projects where each participant contributed to helping the needy in Israel.

The first project was at a moshav (agricultural community) near Tiberias in the Galilee, where the young adults gleaned vegetable fields set apart especially for feeding the poor and underprivileged in Israel. The owners of the field informed...
the group that they broke a record by picking 2,000 kilos of tomatoes in 90 minutes! A verse from Leviticus was an encouragement to the whole group: “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly reap the corners of your field when you reap, nor shall you gather any gleanings from your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God” (Leviticus 23:22).

In Bethlehem, the Arise group visited a local Arab church to learn about the challenges in the area, and to hear testimonies about how God is using the local Christians to minister to the people of Bethlehem. The time of fellowship was followed by a visit to a couple of orphanages in Bethlehem, which touched many in the group. The heart-breaking stories regarding the children were often too hard to comprehend.

An important element of the tour was stopping by the Jordan River, where several tour participants decided to get baptized. It’s an unforgettable experience to follow in Jesus’ footsteps with this powerful declaration of faith. Other highlights included: rafting on the Jordan River, swimming in the natural water springs of Gan HaShlosha, sunrise devotions at the top of Masada, a night in a Bedouin tent in the desert, a camel ride, and much, much more!

The tour would not have been complete without a time to learn and discuss serious topics. Special guest speaker and human rights activist lawyer, Calev Meyers, met with the group to share his knowledge and experience about Israel from a legal and political perspective, including Israel’s relations with the UN, and the reality of life in the West Bank and Gaza.

For Kit from China, coming to Israel was an appointed time with God. Kit is the first, and so far the only one, in her family to become a Christian, so coming to Israel had a tremendous impact on her. “Before coming to Israel, I knew nothing about the country except its wars,” Kit shared. “But throughout the tour, I just felt peace and joy. Every moment of this trip was a memorable one!”

**THIS YEAR’S THEME, ‘A LEAP OF FAITH,’ RESONATED WITH MANY OF THE PARTICIPANTS, WHO TESTIFIED THAT THEIR JOURNEY TO ISRAEL WAS EXACTLY THAT.**

JOIN THE ARISE MOVEMENT! VISIT US ONLINE: WWW.ARISEGENERATION.ORG
Join the ICEJ’s Shomer Society (Keeper of Israel Society)

Consider the ICEJ in your Will or Estate Plans

The ICEJ has worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of Israel for some 35 years. Our Shomer Society has been an integral part of continuing this work. Your gift of cash, stocks and bonds, mutual funds, life insurance, excess in retirement funds, property, or a gift annuity are excellent ways to help the ICEJ carry on your love for Israel. With proper foresight, it is possible for you to bless Israel greatly for many years to come.

Call Us: 800-379-3897

Give a Donation! Make a critical difference!

The Lord has placed before us a great calling to bless His chosen and beloved people and we simply cannot do it without your help. Your donation will make a measurable difference for God’s purposes here in Jerusalem and beyond. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem – USA, Inc. is classified by the I.R.S. as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Corporate and personal contributions to the ICEJ’s US Branch, to the extent allowed by law, are fully tax-deductible.

www.icejusa.org
In the July issue of *Word from Jerusalem*, we mentioned our efforts to support a dental clinic for the poor in Beit She’an. Because of the difficult economic situation in the area, about 30% of the residents depend on social welfare and cannot afford proper dental care.

The ICEJ has made a minimum two-year commitment to support the dental clinic and, as the main sponsor of the center, is trusting that this initiative will better the lives of Beit She’an residents. The clinic will be open to the public twice a week, receiving patients referred by the Welfare Department of the Municipality.

At the opening ceremony, ICEJ International Director, Juha Ketola, stressed the importance of a partnership between Jews and Christians to better the lives of Israel’s citizens: “The calling of ICEJ is to be a blessing to the people of Israel. We represent more than 80 nations, and this is a gift of love and support from Christians in all of these nations. We are doing something practical here, together!”

Shavtai Simchi, Director of the Social Welfare Department in Beit She’an, thanked the ICEJ for its generosity, which made it possible for the clinic to reopen, saying: “Before, we had to send our patients to Afula (43 miles away) for treatment. Thanks to you, we now have appropriate services available here!”

Choose to donate today and your contribution will help with the costs of the equipment, office expenses, and the salaries needed for the clinic to operate. ☑️

**BLESS THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TODAY AND MAKE A DONATION AT:**

[HTTP://WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG/DENTAL-CLINIC](http://www.icejusa.org/dental-clinic)
The civil war continues to rage in Eastern Ukraine, despite the Minsk cease-fire agreements. Many Jewish families find themselves in difficult conditions – even in refugee centers – torn between their desire to return home and the reality that they would be better off moving to Israel to start their new lives.

Many admit that they look to Israel mainly because of the war. At the same time, just the process of leaving Ukraine is not an easy one. To leave the regions of military operations, sometimes they have to go through 16 checkpoints, and on the way they face many risks. The situation in Ukraine is very serious. At the end of June, Aliyah was up by 69%, and the ICEJ was quick to respond to this emergency.

The ICEJ has assisted in the Aliyah of nearly 1,000 Ukrainian Jews fleeing the conflict since the civil war broke out in 2014. Our assistance includes financial support for: fast track preparations, including seminars to prepare them for life in Israel; flights with extra baggage allowance; and especially, immediate and urgent absorption upon arrival in Israel. Jobs, places to live, and language training are all high on the priority list for the new immigrants. ICEJ provides support in all of these areas.

As believers, we are still waiting for some of the Bible’s regathering prophecies to be brought to complete fulfillment, even though they were written thousands of years ago. Today we see the Jewish people returning home and, as history unfolds before our eyes, the ICEJ tries to actively participate in God’s plan. Our vision in Ukraine is to both provide practical help to the Jewish people, as well as to meet with pastors, and educate churches on the great plans of God for His people and the land of Israel.

The ICEJ has been actively helping Ukrainian Jews since the fall of the Soviet Union, and we will continue to help as long as it’s needed. Please join us as we bring thousands of Ukrainian Jews home this year. Winter is coming all too quickly to Ukraine, so your help is vital at this time! ☺️

For more information and to make a donation go to: http://www.icejusa.org/ukraine
JEWISH MIGRATION ON THE SILK ROAD
BY HOWARD FLOWER


The same was true when He brought the captives out of Egypt – it was a sign to the Gentiles. The Lord even called the Gentiles to help – the Egyptians gave there own silver and gold to the departing Israelites! Centuries later, King Cyrus played a pivotal role in helping the Jews return to their land from Babylonian captivity.

Today we are witnesses and often contributors to more waves of Aliyah. Some of them are miraculous. The return of the descendants of the Kaifeng Jewish community in China has stirred up great interest from all over the world. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: “Behold, these shall come from afar; and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the Land of Sinim” (Is. 49:12).

This summer another group of Chinese Jews from Kaifeng are getting ready to move to Israel. They are descendants of Jews who have lived in Kaifeng, China, continuously since the Song Dynasty (960-1279). A stone tablet in the Kaifeng Municipal Museum serves as a reminder today that the first synagogue in the city was built in 1163, on the corner of Earth Market and Fire God streets in Kaifeng.

Even before the formal establishment of the Kaifeng community of Jews, other Jews had visited China during the Han Dynasty and perhaps even earlier. They were known to have traveled along the Silk Road into Central Asia following the Babylonian captivity. There are even legends that the Chinese had contact with the ancient Israelites in King Solomon’s time.

The Jewish and Chinese people have enjoyed a long and harmonious relationship over the years. Both old civilizations, they have existed uninterrupted for thousands of years. The first Jewish family from Kaifeng made Aliyah to Israel through Finland in the year 2000. Today the ICEJ assists the Kaifeng Jews in making their way home. We invite you to become a part of their journey as well, as many cannot afford to make the move without our support.
IN THE MIDDLE of summer, in an atmosphere of joy and excitement, more than 200 French olim (new immigrants) landed at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem had sponsored part of the group that arrived and welcomed them with singing and dancing.

France is home to the third largest Jewish community in the world, right after Israel and the USA. Today there are still about 550,000 Jews living in France. In the last five years more than 20,000, mostly young people and families, made Aliyah (immigration to Israel). Last year alone a record of 7,237 French Jews made the move, which was more than 1 percent of the community at the time.

In 2014, for the first time in history, the largest number of immigrants to Israel came from France. This year Israeli headlines dub the summer months to be the “Summer of French Aliyah.” By the end of the year there could be as many as 8,500 new French olim in Israel.

Dov Gavizon, who just arrived from France, shared his excitement to be in Israel, but also his concern over the remaining Jews in France. His decision to make Aliyah was triggered by the rise of anti-Semitism, which forced every Jewish school and synagogue to hire security guards. “It’s like living in constant fear,” recalled Gavizon. “Parents are too scared to let their children go out, because of the attacks that happened in the past.”

Ilan Halimi was kidnapped and brutally tortured to death by a gang of North African Muslims. They planned to hold him for ransom because of the widely spread prejudice that all Jews are rich. But Ilan Halimi was of modest means, and his family could not persuade the French police to act quickly and decisively. Ilan Halimi died in a horrible way leaving the Jewish community in shock.

Sadly, it was not an isolated incident. In March 2012, four Jews – three of which were children – were killed by a Muslim extremist in front of a Jewish school in Toulouse. In January 2015, a Muslim terrorist murdered four Jews in a kosher supermarket in Paris. And these are only the most violent incidents of anti-Semitism in France; countless lower profile incidents and attitudes contribute to a daily climate of fear and intimidation within Jewish communities.

Currently the ICEJ sponsors seminars where families get to know each other and begin the process of Aliyah. The ICEJ also covers the cost of flights, extra baggage, initial absorption costs, and other expenses involved in the process of immigration. The average cost to make Aliyah is $1,100 per person.

“We should not make the mistake in thinking that all French Jews are wealthy, and they do not need our help,” urged Howard Flower, ICEJ Aliyah Director. “Many of them live in fear and in poverty, on the outskirts of Paris together with Muslim immigrants. ISIS is there now too, and the situation is getting worse. We must not forget that it was the poor Jews who perished in the Holocaust – the ones that couldn’t afford to leave. We must help today! ☺️

TO MAKE A DONATION, VISIT: http://www.icejusa.org/french-aliyah
Through a new initiative of the Czech branch of the ICEJ, a group of young adults from Czech Republic, Germany, and Israel gathered in Prague to learn from history and become active agents of reconciliation.

Looking back at the Holocaust and the years that followed, the group discussed the dangers of prejudice and studied examples of courageous individuals who had the moral strength to stand against the tide of hatred. The group also had the honor to meet a Holocaust survivor during their trip, Doris Grosdanovicova, who was incarcerated in Terezin during the war.

For the Israeli participants, the gathering in Prague provided them with a good opportunity to visit some of the places of historical significance and to meet with their European peers. The German and Czech participants were eager to get to know their Jewish guests, and to learn about their perspective on history. During the program, they also shared a special time of reconciliation as well. It was impossible not to become emotional, as the Europeans asked for forgiveness for their nation’s role, while the Israelis were able to speak that forgiveness out.

The purpose of this unique program is for young adults to better understand their history, to draw lessons from it and to apply these lessons to current situations. As the group got to know each other in this multicultural and multilingual setting, they grew very hopeful for their nations and for their friendship with Israel.

To learn more about the ICEJ branches around the world, visit our website: http://www.icejusa.org/world
**FINLAND**

**While Many Choose to Rest in the Summer Months,**
several of our branches become even more active! ICEJ-Finland organized numerous church seminars around the country, inviting some special guests to speak at their events. The former Executive Director of the ICEJ, Malcolm Hedding, visited Finland to minister at the annual national Pentecostal conference in Keuruu, where his book “Understanding Revelation” was published in Finnish. While in Finland, he also visited several churches and shared his heart for Israel with the Finnish people. At a special ICEJ event in the city of Jyvaskyla, the Deputy Ambassador of Israel to Finland, Arezoo Hersel, gave a greeting on behalf of Israel. In western Finland in the city of Pori, ICEJ International Director, Rev. Juha Ketola, was invited by the local Pentecostal church to be the main speaker at a 5-day summer conference, where he shared his passion for the Word of God and brought encouragement to the attendees. Rev. Ketola also shared the platform in a large gathering in the city of Seinäjoki with Dr. Paul Enenche from Nigeria, and evangelist Marko Selkomaa.

**PHILIPPINES**

**We Are Honored** to present to our readers the new Board of Directors of the ICEJ branch in the Philippines. After years of quiet operation, our ministry partners in this country of more than seven thousand islands are starting afresh with a new team and a clear vision. The photograph, taken at the Embassy of Israel earlier this year depicts, from left: Adam Levene (Deputy Chief of Mission), Mercy Cabiles, Apostle Rolando "Joshua" Blas (National Director); Israeli Ambassador, Effie Ben Matityau; Sally Maddatu (Representative); Rev. Steve Mirpuri, and Maxie Goloy.

**GERMANY AND AUSTRIA**

**Over the Summer,** Doron Schneider of the ICEJ traveled from Jerusalem to Germany and Austria, in order to encourage and inspire believers in local churches. In most cases, the churches were too small for the many visitors, so some had to sit on the floor and even on stage! We are noticing a great hunger among Christians in Europe; with interest in Israel-related topics increasing continuously. Despite the rise of anti-Semitism worldwide, the concern and love for Israel in many European churches is growing tremendously. Many churches are seeking out ways to support Israel, and they also have a desire to connect with the Jewish people in any way they can. It is a blessing to see the deep desire of the believers in Germany and Austria to be a part of God’s salvation plan for Israel.
ICEJ-CANADA HOSTED some of the original Christian Embassy founders and friends at three events on Canada’s beautiful west coast of British Columbia. The events held on July 18, 19, and 20th were organized by the West Regional Director, Bonnie Traversy, and were live streamed.

Some of the special guests at the events were Merv and Merla Watson, Canadians living in Jerusalem, who were the 2013 recipients of the prestigious ICEJ Nehemiah Award. The Watsons shared the original vision of establishing a Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, when 13 of the political embassies left Jerusalem due to the threat of an oil embargo in 1980. Also present were Drs. Jay and Meridel Rawlings, Jewish Canadians who made Aliyah to Israel in 1969 and founded Jerusalem Vistas/IsraelVisionTV; and Serguei and Helena Popov, the world renowned classical violinist and Prima Ballerina from Finland who are also the directors of ICEJ-Georgia and of some of the Russian speaking states.

Donna Holbrook, ICEJ Canada’s National Director, joined in the hosting, as the ICEJ-Canada members and friends came out in large numbers. Marcus Unger, the Watson’s pianist, and Dr. James Lunney, Christian MP from B.C., who participated in the first Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, also joined the celebrations.

To learn more about ICEJ branches around the world, visit our website: http://www.icejusa.org/world

**CELEBRATING ICEJ ANNIVERSARY IN CANADA**

**ICEJ TV**

**WATCH**

**SUNDAYS 5:30pm**

**JOIN THE ICEJ EACH WEEK** on GodTV for *Word From Jerusalem*. The *Word From Jerusalem* television show is a weekly 30-minute program produced by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem featuring biblical teaching and insights from the land of Israel.

*Airtimes may vary by region, check your local listings for actual airtime in your area.

For more information about our various television and radio programs visit www.icejusa.org

**OUR TV AND ON-LINE REPORTS** are your window into Israel and the work of the ICEJ. Be sure to watch the "ICEJ Report" every Sunday, as part of "Israel Now News" on Daystar TV.
RECENTLY, a three-person video production crew from the ICEJ in Jerusalem traveled with Dr. Jürgen Bühler to Eastern Germany to capture footage and interviews for an upcoming series of episodes for the Word from Jerusalem TV program.

The production team traveled thousands of miles over a five day period to film in unique places, such as the picturesque Wartburg Castle in Eisenach. From a small room, typically used for detainment of knights at Wartburg, Martin Luther translated the New Testament from Greek to German. His translation in printed form would have a significant impact on Germany in the decades that followed.

The team also spent time in the city of Erfurt where Martin Luther studied and later became a priest of the Catholic Church at Erfurt Cathedral, and in the city of Wittenberg where in 1517 Luther nailed his 95 theses against the selling of indulgences on the door of the All Saints Castle Church.

The series of episodes being produced by the ICEJ will focus on the history of Reformation; its existence in early biblical accounts; its impact upon western culture and ethics; the failing of early reformers to understand the role of the Jewish people in God’s redemption plans; and the need for Reformation in our day.

When production is completed in the coming months, the series will be aired on GOD TV. You can watch the ICEJ’s weekly 30-minute Word from Jerusalem program on Sundays at 5:30pm on the GODTV network. (NOTE: broadcast times vary by region, so check the GODTV website for specific times in your region.)
ICEJ reiterates support for Israel at Knesset Christian Allies Caucus relaunch

BY ESTERA WIEJA

THE INTERNATIONAL Christian Embassy Jerusalem joined the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus (KCAC) in late July to re-launch the initiative in the current 20th Knesset of Israel. Founded by the late MK Yuri Shtern 11 years ago, the caucus has to be re-launched in each new government.

The event was attended by 25 Israeli parliamentarians, including three ministers: Knesset speaker, Yuli Edelstein; former Foreign Minister, Avigdor Lieberman; and Michael Oren, former Ambassador to the US. A special welcome was given to Rabbi Benny Elon, a former head of the caucus, who has been recovering from cancer.

Since its inception, the ICEJ has been a key partner of this historic caucus. In his address at the opening meeting Executive Director of the ICEJ, Jürgen Bühler, quoted former president Shimon Peres when he said that Jewish-Christian relations today were the best they have been in 2000 years.

“The world do we have a parliament with a caucus that reaches out specifically to Evangelical Christians,” Bühler said. “Our support for Israel is strategic at this time!”

The KCAC underlines the historical development of Jewish-Christian relations and it was established to build direct lines of communication, cooperation and coordination between the Knesset and Christian leaders around the world. Sister caucuses have been launched in the parliaments of some 32 countries.

In the new Knesset, the caucus will be chaired by Faction Chairman, Yisrael Beytenu, and Robert Ilatov, who will be assisted by his deputy from the Zionist Union, Deputy Knesset Speaker, Yoel Hasson.

In his address, Ilatov said the caucus would focus on four main areas in the 20th Knesset: strengthening KCAC’s 32 sister caucuses worldwide, combatting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement, working against the nuclearization of Iran, and striving for recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s eternal capital by countries around the world.

KCAC Director, Josh Reinstein, acknowledged that Israel is dependent on Christian support, while former KCAC chairperson, Minister Gila Gamliel, pointed to the Bible saying that God will bless the Christian supporters of Israel for their devoted work.
IN JULY, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem welcomed special guests from Turkey to its headquarters. Visiting for the first time was one of the nation’s leading pastors and a mayor of one of Turkey’s largest cities (which has a rich historical heritage). For their protection, we have refrained from using their names. The two pioneers came to Israel to build bridges and also to seek prayerful support for their philanthropic work with minorities and Syrian refugees in Turkey.

The pastor from the Kurdish part of Turkey came to faith thinking that becoming a Christian would help him leave the country. Yet, as soon as he started reading the New Testament, he realized that the Scripture was answering his many questions about God and about his own life. His perspective changed, and after deciding to serve the Lord full-time in his home country, he soon became acquainted with God’s heart for Israel.

“It’s hard to read the Bible and not love Israel,” he said straightforwardly. “Replacement Theology doesn’t come naturally, you’d have to be taught to think that way. If you read with understanding, you must understand Israel’s place in God’s plan.”

The pastor and the mayor share a vision that one day the minorities in Turkey – the Kurds, Armenians, Jews, and more – will live together in their land as friends. The mayor has begun a process of restoration in his city of the historical sites that remind the residents of their rich cultural heritage. The mayor helped restore more than 10 Armenian churches in Turkey, which is unheard of in his country. They hope the next step will be to restore the relationship between Turkey and Israel.

Last August they started working with the Syrian refugees in Turkey. With support from the Kurdish municipalities, the local churches have welcomed many families that were fleeing from the war-torn regions in the Middle East.

“We have a saying in our country that we understand each other because we share in our suffering,” the mayor explained. “In the Middle East, all too often people live by the slogan ‘kill or be killed.’ We don’t share in that attitude – we want life! So we need to teach our people that this is the principle we want to live by: everybody has the right to live.”

The mayor commented that if freedom and democracy are goals, women need to share in that freedom too. He admitted that in this part of the world it is the women that suffer the most: “What many people don’t understand is that as long as women don’t have full rights, we won’t be able to enjoy human rights as a society.”

The ICEJ’s Executive Director, Dr. Jürgen Bühler, thanked the visitors for their testimonies and assured them of the ICEJ’s prayerful support.

“It’s a privilege to have you with us,” Dr. Bühler said. “What you shared with us today touches our hearts. The Bible inspires us to love all people, so with that in mind we want to support you and we want to pray for the people of Turkey.”
There may come a time in our lives when we lose heart and become discouraged. The sadness, caused by our disappointments, begins to rise in us and soon robs us of the joy or courage needed to take initiatives and be pro-active in life. Our dark feelings make us lose sight of the bright promises in the Word of God, even though they have the power we need to bring life and light into our darkness.

There is real power reserved for us in the promises of the Bible, but we need the presence of the resurrected Lord Jesus to make them come alive to us and revive our spirit. In the gospel of Luke we can read a beautiful story about Jesus’ ability to use the eternal Word of God to comfort the sad and the discouraged.

Two disciples on their way to a village called Emmaus were engaged in a conversation about all of the things that had happened to Jesus three days earlier in Jerusalem (Luke 24:13-35). While they were talking, Jesus Himself drew near and started walking with them. Their eyes, however, were “restrained so that they did not know Him” (v. 16). They shared with this “stranger” accompanying them, the latest news about the crucifixion and death of their Master. They spoke with great sadness, as all they knew was this: Jesus had died.

And then something wonderful started taking place. Like only the resurrected Lord could do, Jesus took His companions on a journey through Scripture, beginning with Moses and through all the Prophets. Luke records that their hearts began to burn while Jesus showed them what was said about Him throughout the entire Bible.

As a result of being in His presence and studying the Word of God, their countenances began to change. They once again grasped the eternal value and power of the Word, and the sadness within them vanished. Their spirits were filled with fresh life, and new hope. Finally, the two disciples recognized that the “stranger” among them was no one else but Jesus Himself!

Life had returned to their souls and spirits. They were once again overcome with grace. They had been completely revived by the Living Word and by the presence of the resurrected Jesus. They received the latest news directly from Him: He was alive!

Your road today may be dry and hot like the one leading from Jerusalem to Emmaus 2000 years ago. You may be struggling with heaviness in your heart just like the two disciples. But our Master is alive and He is drawing near to you. Open the Gospel of Luke to chapter 24, welcome His presence through prayer, and start reading. Allow the Master Himself to speak to you through His eternal Word. Receive the latest news in your spirit: Jesus is alive and He is with you!
How to Broker a Better Deal with Iran

Two out of every three Americans, and 75% of Israelis, are opposed to the Administration’s deal with Iran, because it does not block the world’s number one sponsor of terrorism from acquiring nuclear weapons. On the contrary, it legitimates the very nuclear program Iran denied they had, and allows for their full acceptance as a nuclear state at the end of the agreement.

There is a very good possibility that in early September, Congress will be able to muster the votes to at least bring about a showdown with the Administration, if not actually produce a veto-proof majority vote. One thing is for sure, during the week of the vote, the halls of Congress will be filled with thousands of American citizens lobbying their members of Congress against the deal thanks to a number of groups planning lobbying days, press conferences, and rallies then.

Opposing the deal is one thing. But, the question that everyone wants answered is: what is the alternative? Its opponents say the alternative is to broker a better deal. However, the fact is that the American negotiating team will not be able to broker a better deal unless they learn to negotiate like an Iranian.

The Middle Eastern Shuk
Most Middle Easterners can negotiate Americans under the carpet, because they literally grow up negotiating everything, from the cost of fruits and vegetables in the shuk (market) to higher priced items like appliances and home goods. Americans only negotiate when they purchase a car or a house! So, what can we learn from the Middle Eastern shuk?

Rule Number One: Never Pay the Stated Price
A shopkeeper will not quote the price that he expects you to pay but an inflated price that leaves room for negotiating. Never agree to the stated demand. Always offer less.

Rule Number Two: Never Start Where You Want to End
Once a price has been stated, respond with an offer that is so ridiculously low that it is embarrassing. This is where many Americans stumble, because they do not want to look like they are cheap, nor do they want to insult the poor merchant. But, if you do not counter low, you will end up paying too much.

Rule Number Three: Make Them Think it Really Hurts
Middle Easterners love to play along with their opponent by telling how much the counter offer hurts while displaying great emotion and perhaps emphatic gestures. Compare this to the average American who usually avoids any display of emotion. They are not used to such reactions, so they will quickly give in and pay the high price thinking they may have insulted or hurt the feelings of their negotiating partner.

Rule Number Four: Don’t Trust Your Opponent
Americans are at heart a very honest people, and look down on any type of lying. So, they assume everyone else is telling the truth like they are! In the Middle East though, truth can be sacrificed to achieve the goal of leaving the negotiations with honor and respect back home. Therefore, don’t believe everything your opponent says.

Rule Number Five: Be Prepared to Walk Away
When the stakes are high, and the deal being brokered is just not good enough, then the buyer has to be willing to walk out the door. The merchant knows then that he has lost the sale, and he will run after the buyer with a new offer. Being too eager to make a deal is perceived as weakness and will be taken advantage of. Always be willing to walk away.

Only those privy to the negotiations know how well or how poorly the American team did. But, based on their eagerness to close a deal, and the response of the Iranians, who said they got everything they wanted, it appears the American team was out-negotiated.

To broker a better deal with Iran, perhaps we should consider bringing in the Israelis to negotiate for us. They have much more experience in the Middle Eastern shuk.

Susan M Michael is US Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. www.icejusa.org
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