Delivering bomb shelters to Israelis under fire
Dear Friends,

Israel is under fire again! Even as I am writing this, more rockets are being launched by Hamas terrorists into Israel’s cities – over 2000 rockets in total at the time we went to press.

The big miracle is that few Israeli civilians have been killed directly by rocket fire. Much of Israel is being protected by the new Iron Dome anti-rocket defense system, which has quickly proven itself with a high 90% success rate in shooting down those missiles headed towards populated areas. Of course, we mourn the loss of a number of Israeli soldiers attempting to destroy tunnels and rocket launchers inside Gaza.

Despite the fighting in Gaza, and the repeated “Code Red” sirens heard across the land, including three times already in Jerusalem, normal life continues. People continue to go sit in coffee shops, relax in public parks or head for the beaches. The intended terror from Hamas is affecting daily routines, but it has failed to spread panic and paralysis among the Israeli people.

While the ICEJ staff feels perfectly safe here in Jerusalem, it is the Israeli communities in the immediate vicinity of Gaza who are the real victims of this conflict. We have delivered portable bomb shelters to some of the hardest-hit areas around Gaza, and our AID teams are busy helping take poor families, children, and the elderly away from the front-lines on respites to quieter parts of the country. We have also made initiatives to counsel those traumatized by the incessant rocket barrages.

It is for times like these that the Christian Embassy is here. I was greatly encouraged to see the resilience of the people living close to Gaza. Moving to another location in Israel is not an option for them.

“If we leave from here when the rockets are falling, then we will also leave Tel Aviv or Jerusalem when terrorism strikes there,” one mother told me. “This is our God-given land and we are here to stay.”

We are here as a global Christian ministry to stand with Israel on your behalf – in good times and bad. Please continue to pray for us and support our work in these momentous days.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

PS: Please join us at the Feast of Tabernacles from October 10-15. I would love to welcome you at the brand new Jerusalem Arena. It will be a great time with Christians from all around the world.

COVER PHOTO:
ICEJ Delivering Bomb Shelter

FOR MAGAZINE ARCHIVES
visit www.icejusa.org/wfj
CONTENTS

A WAR MADE IN IRAN
BY DAVID PARSONS

THE ROAD TO AUSCHWITZ ISN'T EASY

FAREWELL TO PERES

NEXT ISSUE
COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUE FROM JERUSALEM

Our next issue will be a special edition for September focusing on Arise Generation, the ICEJ’s young adult program.

Learn more about our upcoming events at: www.icejusa.org/events

ICEJ STAFF WELCOME BNEI MENASHE TO ISRAEL
Most people wake up to coffee or their favorite morning news show. But four times in the last eight years now, Israelis have woken up to rocket wars.

Some border incident happens around daybreak and by noon there are hundreds of rockets flying in all directions. It can be quite dizzying!

But, you do not just wake up to a rocket war. It takes a lot of time and money, as well as manpower, material, and expertise to build up such a large rocket arsenal as that now possessed by Hamas. This did not happen overnight! It had to be planned and implemented over a long period of time.

So there is an extensive background behind this latest rocket war between Hamas and Israel. And the explanation for the current hostilities does not begin with the three Jewish yeshiva students kidnapped and killed by a Hebron terror cell in June. That was certainly a spark, but the real cause can be traced all the way back to the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s.

The bloody conflict between Saddam's battalions and Khomeini's columns lasted eight long years and basically ended in a stalemate. But as with most wars, new tactics and weaponry were introduced and hard lessons were learned, to be studied and applied in the next war.

Two new wrinkles came out of that Iran-Iraq stand-off which are fueling today's hostilities in and around Gaza.

The March of Martyrs

First, Iran started sending indoctrinated soldiers on suicide missions for the sake of Allah. The ‘soldiers’ in this case were waves of young boys promised a harem of virgins in paradise for sweeping through Iraqi mine fields with their bare feet.

Iran swiftly exported this new/old tactic of martyrdom operations to Lebanon, as demonstrated by the driver who plowed his explosives-laden truck into the US Marine barracks in October 1983, killing 241 American servicemen. In doing so, Tehran passed the practice on to its Shi’ite proxy militia in Lebanon, Hizbullah, who would later school Hamas on its virtues when some 400 operatives of the Palestinian terror faction were temporarily deported to south Lebanon in December 1992.

The day the Oslo Accords were signed the following September, the deal required Israel - at the PLO’s insistence - to take back in the Hamas deportees. Within a few short years, Oslo would begin collapsing under the carnage wrought by the march of Palestinian suicide bombers.

Israel finally found ways to confront this threat, but Hamas still employs the tactic in other ways. The population of Gaza today
is either brainwashed into viewing death for an Islamic Palestine as life’s highest aspiration, or they are held hostage by those who want to force such martyrdom upon them.

Truth be told, most Gazans do not want to serve as human shields to protect Hamas cadres and their military assets, but these poor folks are powerless to prevent it. And how, pray tell, is Israel supposed to distinguish between the willing and the coerced human shields from 5000 feet overhead?

Terror from the Sky
The second innovation of the Iran-Iraq war involved a new/old weapon of mass terror - the ballistic missile. This ‘discovery’ was not made in the Revolutionary Guards’ R&D labs. Instead, it was learned the hard way when Saddam Hussein decided one day to start randomly lobbing his quiver of Russian-made Scud missiles at Iran’s major cities.

Some initially scoffed at the idea of using a weapon designed to target an enemy’s military bases on non-threatening civilians hundreds of miles from the battlefront. But the impact on the Iranian people was devastating, as the Scuds sowed panic and fear in Tehran and other population centers. The national morale sank and Iran was soon seeking a way out of the conflict.

After the war, the Ayatollahs decided they needed this terror weapon in their own arsenal - and in particular to deploy it in their religiously-driven campaign to eliminate Israel. So they started developing their Shihab series of medium-range ballistic missiles to threaten Israel from afar, plus an array of shorter-range rockets that were then delivered to Hizbullah in Lebanon to deploy along Israel’s northern front.

Iran’s thinking involved a move away from confronting Israel with conventional armed forces, since Israel had defeated all such Arab foes over its first three decades by always taking the fight to the enemy’s territory. Rather, Tehran sought to bypass the traditional order of battle against IDF forces and hit straight at Israel’s civilian heartland.

In this strategy’s first real test, Hizbullah used its lethal rocket armory with devastating effect in the Second Lebanon War in the summer of 2006. In that 34-day conflict, more than 4,000 rockets were fired into northern Israel, keeping over one million civilians huddled in bomb shelters for more than a month during the heat of summer.

Many of the rockets were Syrian-made Grads with extra-lethal fragmentation warheads – a poor man’s cluster bomb meant to rip through human flesh. The casualty count mounted to 165 Israelis dead, including over 40 civilians. The confrontation ended in a draw, but Hizbullah’s popularity soared in the Arab world for striking terror in Israel’s suddenly vulnerable homeland.

With its rocket caches somewhat depleted, Hizbullah has used effective weapons smuggling operations ever since to rebuild its arsenal now to over 150,000 rockets and missiles of various ranges – despite UN Security Council ban on this very activity. This represents a larger weapons stockpile than is possessed by most nations in the world.

Meanwhile, Hamas also became a major client of Iran in the late 1990s after its political bureau was evicted from Amman and found a new home in Damascus, another ally of Tehran. The Revolutionary Guards began funneling missiles and launchers into Gaza, and helped Hamas develop its own rocket manufacturing capabilities. In pursuing this partnership, Iran’s goal was to eventually threaten Israel’s entire civilian population with overlapping firepower from both the north and south using proxy militias entrenched among civilians living close to its borders. Thus the home-made Kassams began flying across the Gaza border early in the second Palestinian intifada, and their rate increased four-fold following Israel’s Disengagement from Gaza in 2005.

Eager to increase its rocket range, Hamas has made or smuggled in longer-range munitions, such as the J80 and M305 missile series introduced in the recent fighting. The rocket barrages fired by Hamas into central Israel over recent days mark only the third time ever that greater Tel Aviv has come under serious military attack – the others being the 1991 Gulf War and a couple rudimentary Egyptian air sorties in 1948.

Fortunately, Israel was on to the Iranian plans long ago and began developing with American assistance a multi-layered anti-missile defense system which includes the Iron Dome, David’s Sling (nearing deployment), Arrow II and III, Patriot III, advanced radars and other components. For both sides it has been a race – of Iran’s blunt offensive punch against Israel’s defensive genius. And Israel is coming out just ahead of the game.

After stopping the march of suicide bombers in the West Bank, Israel is now hoping to defang the Hamas rocket threat in Gaza. But to effectively deal with this danger may require a risky and prolonged IDF ground incursion into Gaza to root out the rocket factories, and their storage and launch sites – all hidden in tunnels and bunkers, and under homes, mosques, schools and hospitals.

It used to take a lot of time and effort for Hamas to recruit a single suicide bomber, indoctrinate and train them, and then dispatch him (or her) on an unsavory mission. Families had to be paid, minds warped, cowards culled out.

Today, every rocket fired by Hamas is a cheap version of yesterday’s suicide bomber and it bears the indelible stamp ‘Made in Iran.’ And these missiles are launched from among Gazans who are being involuntarily recruited for martyrdom missions as human shields.

Let’s hope the whole world wakes up to this cruel reality. ☹️
All humanity aches. Deep within the core of human existence dwells a secret pain that continuously cries out that something has been lost.

This pain is a mixture of feelings - guilt, fear, rejection, separation, hopelessness, and aimlessness. Man has been driven from his original home and is now adrift, lacking purpose and direction – and in pain (Genesis 3:16-24).

Nature is also suffering and longing to be brought back to its original state. Creation is groaning, just like man himself (Romans 8:18-23).

The Consequences of Sin
All humanity has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The peace and harmony between God, humanity, and creation has been lost, and as a result decay, corruption, and futility reigns.

Sin entered into man and his world. The original Paradise which God created as a home for mankind was lost. Because of the first man Adam's fall, all creation has been subjected to futility. Sin, death, and the works of Satan are all around us. But praise God, there is hope for the restoration of all things (Romans 8:20; Acts 3:21)! This hope is in the “second Man” who came from heaven (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

The Great Hope
The great theme of the Bible is the sin and guilt of all humanity and then God’s reconciliation of all things through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. God has never withdrawn Himself from humanity, but instead has provided full restoration to all His creation by giving His Son Jesus to die on our behalf, and by raising Him from the dead.

God has given a great hope to a lost world by promising not only the forgiveness of sins and the mending of our broken lives when we believe in His Son, but also resurrection from the dead and redemption of our bodies at His return. He has begun His good, redemptive work in us who believe, and He also will complete it (Philippians 1:6). He has given us peace and hope for our earthly lives, and promised us glorious resurrection bodies for eternity (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57; Philippians 3:20-21!)

This promise is our continual joy, and gives us strength and hope for our daily lives amid a broken world!

God has Never Given Up
The promised restoration of all creation has always been on God’s heart. It has never been erased from His purposes and will, and is spoken of by all the Hebrew prophets (Acts 3:21). The New Testament affirms this full restoration, especially in Revelation, such as chapters 20 to 22.

God has clearly promised to redeem His creation, bring everything back to its original state - and even to a more glorious state – and set up the Kingly throne of His Son, to rule over a world freed from corruption and futility (Jeremiah 3:17; Isaiah 2:1-4, 9:6-7, 11:1-9; Zechariah 14:16-19; Psalm 2:6-9, 96, 98; Revelation 20:1-3).

The Throne of David
God’s Word speaks openly about this glorious future not just in heaven but here on earth — especially in His assurances to the Jewish people concerning “the throne of David.” That throne will be the place where the Offspring of David will return from heaven to rule upon earth (Revelation 22:16!)

Covenant with David
God made a covenant with King David which promises that his offspring will sit on His throne forever. God swore to build a royal dynasty from David’s lineage that would finally rule over the entire world (2 Samuel 7; Psalm 2:6-9, 89; Luke 1:32-33; Acts 2:30-32; Revelation 19:15).

This covenant guarantees the restoration of Israel, the whole of humanity, and all creation. Jesus confirmed it with His blood on the cross, just like all the other covenant
promises God made with the Jewish people (Ephesians 2:12; 2 Cor. 1:19-20; Rom.15:8).

God was not only talking to David about Solomon, but rather the coming of His Messiah, the God-man Jesus Christ, into this fallen world. And, King David understood this, as the Apostle Peter affirmed on the Day of Pentecost:

"Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke . . . For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool!'" (Acts 2:30-31, 34-35).

The apostles saw Jesus as that promised seed of David who would restore Israel, rebuild the tabernacle of David, and eventually sit as King on his throne ruling not only over a restored Israel, but also the restored Gentile nations (Acts 1:6, 15:13-17). Moreover, the Angel Gabriel — like the prophet Isaiah — announced that "of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom" (Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:31-33).

Israel's Hope

The second coming of Jesus is the final fulfillment of God's covenant with David. It will prove God's faithfulness to His ancient people and affirm Israel's redemptive role among the nations, all the way from Abraham to modern times. The Jewish people will welcome the King back, and for this to happen they have to be back in their homeland!

The Apostles Peter and Paul both explain how God would work out His eternal purposes through Israel for the good of all humanity. They tell us that without the salvation of Israel, times of refreshing will not come and Jesus will not be sent back from heaven (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 11).

Jesus affirmed to His own people: "You shall see me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'" (Matthew 23:39).

So, the context of His return will be the same as His first coming: the Jewish people and their land.

The gospel of Matthew begins: "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1).

In other words, Jesus came as the fulfillment of God's covenants with Abraham and David. Also, Luke wrote specifically about Jesus as the fulfillment of these two covenants (Luke 1:31-33, 54-55, 68-75).

THIS MESSAGE OF FULL RESTORATION IS FOUND EVERYWHERE IN THE WORD OF GOD. IT IS THE 'CURRENT' WHICH IS MOVING AND INSPIRING THE CHILDREN OF GOD IN A CLEAR DIRECTION THROUGH ALL OUR PAIN AND 'TROUBLED WATERS'.

But, for all the promises God gave in these covenants to be fulfilled, Jesus first had to die and be resurrected, and now must return, "In His glory, and the glory of the Father, and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:26).

Israel's Restoration

In order for the promised restoration of Israel and of all things to reach its glorious "finale," the Jewish people are now returning to their ancient homeland after two thousand years of exile. This is by the sovereign hand of God.

As a covenant-keeping God, He remains forever faithful to all His promises to Israel. These promises also impact all humanity. He is restoring the Jewish people to their land. The next phase will be their spiritual restoration to God as a nation, which will open the gates for the King of Glory to come back to earth (Ezekiel 36 and 37; Zechariah 12:10; Romans 11:25-26).

Thus Israel's restoration serves the best interests of all nations, too! Righteousness and peace will finally come – but it comes through God's plans only. And those plans forever include Israel, since, "salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22).

Judgment of the Nations

When the Son of Man returns to sit on the throne of David, all nations will be gathered before Him for judgment (Matthew 25:31-46; Psalm 96, 98). This judgment of the nations will be necessary to usher in peace. The Bible is clear that until righteousness is first in place, there can be no true peace between men.

Isaiah proclaimed that when the Messiah reigns on earth, nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they learn war anymore (Isaiah 2:1-4). But, all this will happen only after the Son of David judges rightly among the nations. Indeed, He shall rule the earth with a rod of iron (Psalm 2:6-9; Revelation 19:15).

God's Rule

God's rule on earth for the good of all nations is certain. He will restore justice, righteousness, peace, and joy among all peoples. Every mouth will be stopped. God will vindicate His name and character by establishing justice for all the oppressed peoples throughout history. It will be clear that God is and always has just been.

Isaiah describes this glorious future by declaring: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain. For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:9).

Resurrection of the Dead

The coming of the Lord to take His rightful place on the throne of David in Jerusalem is the glorious hope of the Church! The Bright and Morning Star will arise and we will be redeemed! The Bridegroom will have a perfect Bride to celebrate with Him at the great marriage supper of the Lamb!

The Bible says the dead will rise and we who are alive, in the twinkling of an eye, will be caught up together to meet Him in the air (1 Corinthians 15:51-57; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)! Finally, our lowly bodies will be transformed into His glorious body (Philippians 3:20-21!)

The Bible says that we should put all
our hope into the Lord’s coming and the grace that will be given in the revealing of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13). The writer of Hebrews adds that Jesus will return “without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him” (Heb. 9:28). In other words, His sacrifice on the cross was complete and has thoroughly saved us already, even while we are still waiting for our resurrected bodies! Jesus said on the cross: “It is finished!” (John 19:30).

**Holiness in Hope**

God says He has subjected all creation to futility in hope, and that we as His own have received the gift of His Spirit guaranteeing the redemption of our bodies. This carries a very strong message (Romans 8:18-25)!

Because of this present hope of final redemption amid our painful existence, we will never have His permission to move backwards in our walk with Him. God will never give us a “green light” to slide back into our sinful ways. The old life of sin and lust is gone! There is no way to return to Egypt, since all things have become new! (2 Corinthians 5:17). Our “yes” to Jesus is also our “no” to sin.

The Apostle John insisted that, “everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure” (1 John 3:2-3). And Paul wrote to Titus:

“The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:11-13).

**The Redemption of All Creation**

All creation will experience an unbelievable change at the return of Jesus. It will be thoroughly renewed. The whole atmosphere will become like paradise — a pleasant expression of God’s very nature. The beauty of God’s creation will manifest itself in new depths, richness, and glory never seen since the Garden of Eden. I believe even the colors in nature will be brighter and richer than now.

Creation is eagerly awaiting and groaning for this to happen – including all the plants and animals (Romans 8:19-22)! The animals will live at peace with one another and with men once again (Isaiah 11:6-9).

Because of our redeemed bodies and creation’s new freedom from corruption and decay, the fruit of the Spirit will be overwhelmingly sensed on earth. The glory of the Lord will radiate again throughout the world.

All creation is now groaning – true! But, the Day will come when it will be cheerfully rejoicing its new and glorious freedom!

**The Joy in Creation**

The Psalmist expresses this great joy of redemption by saying the rivers will clap, the fields, trees, and hills rejoice, and the seas roar. That is to say, all creation will welcome the Lord’s return with utter delight (Psalm 96, 98). And we should already be rejoicing by offering a new song to the Lord about this great hope (Ephesians 5:19-20). Yes, we groan now but at the same time we sing with joy! Oh, how joyous that Day will be!

None of this will happen, however, before the sons of God are revealed (Romans 8:19-21). Jesus appearing in His glory will cause the dead in Christ to rise and the physical bodies of those of us alive to be changed, and only then will creation also be redeemed and set free. We wait in our present bodies for the glory of Jesus to be finally revealed, and creation waits with us!

**Final Restoration**

When Peter and John healed the lame man at the Temple gate in Acts 3, the man received a complete restoration of his body and was leaping and greatly rejoicing. As the crowds gathered and marvelled at this, Peter started to preach about the death and resurrection of Jesus. As a result, the Sadducees got angry at the apostles for “preaching in Jesus the resurrection from the dead” (Acts 4:2). But Peter declared: “heaven must receive (Jesus) until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:21).

The restoration of the lame man, the promise of times of refreshing for Israel, and the message of the restoration of all things were all designed by God to go together in powerful demonstration of what He has always desired: the redemption of all creation back to wholeness and purity!

**Our Hope for the Future**

This message of full restoration is found everywhere in the Word of God. It is the “current” which is moving and inspiring the children of God in a clear direction through all our pain and “troubled waters.”

So, until the day dawns and the morning star finally arises in our hearts, let us sing the new song of redemption together with all creation (2 Peter 1:19). ☪
The road to Auschwitz is not easy.

Not for survivors, nor for their descendants, nor for the Yad Vashem staff, or Christians who recently journeyed together to the Auschwitz-Birkenau and Treblinka death camps, and the ghettos of Krakow and Warsaw.

Many of the participants in the special International Mission to Poland to mark the 60th Anniversary of Yad Vashem in June, were there to honor family members who were murdered. The courage exhibited in our group was a stark contrast to the ghastly darkness of the Holocaust.

“He uncovers deep things out of darkness” (Job 12:22).

As our bus wound through the cobbled streets of medieval Krakow, our guide told the story of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach. Like us, he dared a trip to Poland to see and to mourn. He encountered darkness, yes, but soon he began to detect sparks of light, keying-in on one thousand years of Jewish life in Poland prior to the Shoah. Our guide said it may be the same for us.

First and foremost we faced history. We looked evil dead-on, confronted material evidence, heard diary excerpts of the slain and – most astonishing – listened to survivors explain what happened to them exactly where they stood. We became witnesses of deep things out of darkness.

“Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place?” (Job 38:19).

Alongside this darkness, there was a surprise: rays of light shined out along the way. From 1939 to 1989 many Polish Jews kept their identity secret, until Communism collapsed. Today, they are coming out of hiding. Others, who thought they were Gentiles, are discovering that they are really Jewish – their parents had concealed this because of the danger. Concerning Gentiles, there is also light shining: new Holocaust rescuers are being discovered every week because they are no longer fearful to be counted. Further, there are young Poles learning about the neighbors and culture they never knew, they are learning Hebrew and Yiddish, klezmer music, performing in Yiddish theatre, organizing Jewish festivals, and restoring synagogues and Jewish cemeteries.

“...as the sparks fly upward” (Job 5:7).

The flames of Birkenau were ever-present in our minds, yet our guide was right. With the darkness, we encountered light.

The road to Auschwitz is not easy, but sparks of light, love, and courage from our closely-knit group are reaching upward.

DR. CARRIE BURNS is the Educational Programs Developer for the US Branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem and participated in the 60th Anniversary International Mission of Yad Vashem.
A little boy’s father was murdered one day in Treblinka.

When liberators finally arrived, little Lulek was found hiding under corpses at another camp – Buchenwald. Over seventy years later, I heard him speak in Jerusalem. Israel Meir Lau, Chairman of Yad Vashem, and a former Chief Rabbi of Israel, shared his story last month with participants of a special international mission to mark the 60th Anniversary of Yad Vashem.

“The task is holy,” he exhorted. “The work is pure.”

It is indeed a sacred trust to honor those countless souls murdered in the Holocaust, to remember Jewish life, and to be dedicated to its continuity. This is the mission of Yad Vashem.

For most of the one million people who visit the Yad Vashem campus each year, the experience is limited to a tour of the museum and maybe a quick stop in the bookstore. But this is only a fraction of the work of this revered institution. Participants in the 60th Anniversary International Mission were privileged to go behind the scenes, receiving “white glove” treatment in each department.

Art Museum: The world’s largest collection of Holocaust art, with over 10,000 works, is housed here. Art can penetrate deeper than words, as the museum director demonstrated. She put on white gloves to handle an original drawing by Peter Ginz, a child who died at Auschwitz. Another drawing, his lunar landscape, had rocketed into space on the Columbia with Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, himself the son of an Auschwitz survivor. The space shuttle self-destructed on February 1st, Peter’s birthday. Rabbi Lau is right: the work is holy.

Visual Center: 12,000 testimonies and 8,500 movies, documentaries, and newsclips on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism are archived here. Like art, film profoundly impacts the viewer. Each video is mined for key facts by researchers and educators from around the world.

Archives: This department is used by 10,000 people each year, and receives over 20,000 email requests. The director put on white gloves to show us one of 120,000 artifacts collected for a special project. Each treasure has a poignant story and in most cases, the object survived while the person who owned it did not. Often, when an object is recognized by someone, connections are made and fragmented families are united. The work is redemptive.

Artifact Collection: This lies at the heart of Yad Vashem. The museum director explained that Yad Vashem was originally created by survivors in 1953, using photos to show what Nazis and other perpetrators did. The new museum, which opened in 2005, tells the story from the perspective of the Jewish people, through their personal belongings. Toys of murdered children had just been donated, cradled by hands, once again, wearing white gloves. The work is pure.

International Institute of Research: This section develops documentation, scholarly research, publications, and symposia in several languages.

International School for Holocaust Studies: The school provides interdisciplinary seminars, conferences, newsletters, curricula and on-line courses in multiple languages for teachers, pupils, organizations, and soldiers.

Righteous Among the Nations: This department reviews hundreds of applications each year for “Righteous Gentile” status, preserves rescue stories through an on-line data base, and maintains the beloved trees.

Elsewhere, the Tech Department maintains Yad Vashem’s innovative website, while the International Department serves the families and individuals who support Yad Vashem.

Just as the treasures entrusted to them, Yad Vashem’s staff gave first-rate treatment to the Mission participants. The place itself is a world treasure, carrying out a sacred work that deserves our support. 😊

MAKE YOUR DONATION TO YAD VASHEM TODAY, VISIT: WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG/YADVASHEM
AS THE DIRECTOR of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, I can attest that the 60th anniversary of this institution is a pivotal moment in history. Despite the passage of time since the atrocities of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem’s mission is as important today as it was in 1953 when the institution was founded by an act of Israel’s parliament.

Today, we see an increasing interest in Yad Vashem from Christians worldwide. There is a growing understanding that the Holocaust is not just a part of Jewish history but something that touches us all. Therefore, I am personally grateful for every Christian who joined the 60th Anniversary Mission to learn more about this immense tragedy and to show solidarity towards Israel and the Jewish people.

Some deny the Holocaust even though many eyewitnesses remain with us. What will they do when the last survivors are gone? This is why the vital work of Yad Vashem needs the support of Christians. The ICEJ’s partnership with Yad Vashem provides the means for you to undergird our activities.

We need your gifts, your visits, and your prayers. Make a donation today and join Christian Friends of Yad Vashem. 🕉️
Recently, we spoke to Dr. Ephraim Kaye of the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem to learn more about his department’s important work.

**Word From Jerusalem:** Yad Vashem’s museum puts on public display the enormity of the Holocaust but your education department also has taken on a lot more significance. Tell us about your work...

**Dr. Ephraim Kaye:** Avner Shalev, Chairman of Yad Vashem, came on in 1993 with a clear vision not only to bring Yad Vashem into the 21st century with a historic new museum, but he also decided to create an International School for Holocaust Studies. In October 1999, we inaugurated the school with three stories, seventeen classrooms and a staff of about 50 educators, and it was already too small for us. Since then, our educational activities have grown by leaps and bounds. In 2013, we had 300,000 people — Israeli students, soldiers, Birthright participants, and international educators from around the world — come through our school.

**WFJ:** How many visit the school versus the museum each year?

**Kaye:** Of the approximately 1.3 million annual visitors to Yad Vashem, close to 25% also come through our school. There is no other Holocaust museum in the world with a school of education like ours. I am the Director of the Department for International Seminars, and last year we conducted almost 70 seminars for 1,500 foreign educators from 30 different countries.

**WFJ:** Is a lot of what you are teaching about the Holocaust based on research into your own archival materials?

**Kaye:** At this institution, I live in a perfect world. Because, as an educator, Yad Vashem not only has the largest archive in the world of 170,000,000 pages of documentation, but also 430,000 digital photographs, artifacts, and artwork ... we have the Spielber collection of 54,000 videotaped testimonies, plus another 50,000 testimonies of our own — audio, written, and videotaped. The amount of material is enormous. And we are constantly in discourse with our colleagues in archives and research to develop these materials for our students.

**WFJ:** Do students and educators from abroad come to you, or do you go looking for them?

**Kaye:** Sometimes we initiate the contact, and other times the initiative comes from different countries. About nine years ago, we had a seminar here at the request of some survivors of the Rwanda genocide. They came from Belgium and spent 10 days here, and it was a very moving seminar in which we invited Holocaust survivors to speak to them. Then we did something we had never done before. The Jewish survivors came back to listen to their stories. And it was very emotional.

**WFJ:** What about the effort to build relations with Christians around the world?

**Kaye:** After we created the Christian Desk at Yad Vashem, about four years ago we started to offer a special week-long seminar for Christian leaders ... these weren’t educators in the traditional sense, but they are multipliers. They have congregations. And, we created a special seminar for these Evangelical leaders. It has been a very uplifting experience for us here in the school to bring in people who are committed and passionate, not only about their Christian beliefs but also what was done to the Jewish people during the war ... it’s been uplifting for me personally, to be in a room with other God-fearing people. There’s an automatic bond because we are talking some of the same codes, and I think that we have learned a lot from this. They also walked away even more determined to go back to their communities to explain not only about the Holocaust and the sins of the past, but more importantly the future and how to be more supportive of Israel. So, this engagement with Christians is a new element for Yad Vashem.
THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM sponsors a variety of educational programs that open the doors of learning to all sectors of Israeli society, and especially to give disadvantaged youth a better chance to succeed in life. The ICEJ assists the younger generation with educational and after-school activities designed to help them meet the many tough challenges in the classroom, at home, and on the streets. Thankfully, many young lives from very diverse backgrounds are being impacted. Following are some examples of our recent educational efforts.

Please support our educational projects in Israel by giving to ICEJ AID. Donate today at www.icejusa.org/aid

DRUZE SCHOOLS GRATEFUL FOR ICEJ ASSISTANCE

ONE MINORITY GROUP the ICEJ has been assisting with educational projects is the Druze community. The Druze are very supportive of the state of Israel, which often puts them at odds with fellow Israeli Arabs. But the Druze are a tight-knit community, with close families and a strong work ethic, so they have fared well in Israel.

Druze schools teach honor, ethics, and social responsibility. The children speak Arabic at home but also learn Hebrew at an early age and quickly move on to English. After finishing school they usually join the IDF and proudly help defend the nation.

In recent years, the ICEJ has funded computer centers at several Druze schools in the Galilee. An ICEJ AID team recently visited schools in Daliat el-Carmel, where we have provided 25 computers and other classroom items, such as chairs, desks, headphones, and books. Our contributions were met with a matching grant from a local Druze donor wanting to ensure a better future for their children.

The dedication of one new computer room was an important event for both the school and the town. Nicole Yoder and Yudit Setz of ICEJ AID were the special guests, along with Mayor, Rafik Halabi. They were welcomed by the school principal, the parents committee, and the students.

“I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the ICEJ and its wonderful staff for your assistance,” assured the principal. “I was moved by the generosity of Christians who care about us. Your support builds a platform for a better future for our children, as well as for Israel.”

OPENING DOORS TO BETTER EDUCATION IN ISRAEL

BY ESTERA WIEJA

Sponsors a variety of educational programs that open the doors of learning to all sectors of Israeli society, and especially to give disadvantaged youth a better chance to succeed in life. The ICEJ assists the younger generation with educational and after-school activities designed to help them meet the many tough challenges in the classroom, at home, and on the streets. Thankfully, many young lives from very diverse backgrounds are being impacted. Following are some examples of our recent educational efforts.

Please support our educational projects in Israel by giving to ICEJ AID. Donate today at www.icejusa.org/aid

ICEJ AID PROJECTS FOR EDUCATION
To our Christian supporters,

My name is Rivka Davit, and I am a first-year student of behavioral science. In my name, and in the name of my fellow students, I would like to say thank you!

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to be like other Israelis. As an Ethiopian, I have experienced the cultural rift between Israeli society and our society. This experience has left me conflicted: I see myself as an Israeli through-and-through, yet I have also felt a lack of connection to Israeli society... In the past I thought that it was impossible to bridge that gap. But, with being accepted to the Ruppin Academic Center and studying here, I now understand that it is possible to close this gap and to create cooperation between different layers of society.

Of course, this all is happening thanks to your generous contribution. There are moments when my studies become difficult to the point where I feel like giving up. But knowing that there are people like you, who even before meeting us believed in us, gives us all the strength to push through the struggles, move forward and succeed.

Because of you we are fulfilling a dream of generations of Ethiopians before us, to make aliyah to Israel and study in an academic environment. Thank you for restoring my belief in myself. Today, I feel that I can walk confidently with my head high. Because of you I feel a very strong desire to give back to Israeli society as a whole...

With infinite gratitude and appreciation,

Rivka Davit

STUDENT AT RUPPIN ACADEMIC CENTER

LAST YEAR, the International Christian Embassy started working with the Center for Excellence in Jerusalem, a unique school where extraordinarily bright students can excel in their fields and dream big. One of Israel’s best secondary schools, it has no financial test for admittance, so all gifted Israeli children who qualify academically can receive an exceptional education.

The ICEJ now offers scholarships for brilliant students who otherwise could not afford to attend this school. One such student is Suzanne, who is from the Druze community on the Golan. When she is home, she usually has to work two jobs. At the Center for Excellence in Jerusalem, she shares her dorm room with Jewish classmates, and they all enjoy getting to know each other’s cultures.

Suzanne realizes she is achieving more academically than if she had stayed at home. She believes the personal attention she receives at the Center is a huge benefit. She also participates on the religion committee, where she learns of other faiths and shares about her own.

Last school year, Suzanne received a scholarship from the ICEJ to attend the Center for Excellence. She remains excited about the challenge.

“The biggest lesson I’ve learned here is that a person can cope in any community and find good friends no matter where they come from, or how different their background,” she shared.

Another student on an ICEJ scholarship is Sigal. A Christian from Sderot, near the Gaza border, she takes part in the school choir. She sings on Shabbat without musical accompaniment, in consideration of observant Jewish students.

Back home Sigal felt a constant need to defend herself from others, but at the school she has learned to trust her peers. With encouragement from her teachers, she started dreaming about becoming an architect. With help from Christian supporters like you, she will be able to pursue that dream.

Please support our educational projects in Israel by giving to ICEJ AID. Donate today at

www.icejusa.org/aid
ISRAEL IN CRISIS

ISRAEL FACES ANOTHER ROCKET WAR WITH HAMAS
CHRISTIAN EMBASSY ASSISTS ISRAELIS UNDER FIRE

In July Israel suddenly found itself in yet another rocket war with Hamas in Gaza. The Islamist militia began firing dozens of missiles into Israel and the IDF responded with a major military campaign called “Operation Protective Edge,” to stem the Hamas rocket threat on Israel’s civilian homeland.

Within the first few days, all of Israel’s major cities were targeted, as well as Ben-Gurion Airport and the Dimona nuclear reactor. But the Iron Dome system proved its worth once again in shooting down the most threatening missiles, while Hamas began taking a serious pounding from the IDF.

This was the fourth time in the last eight years that Israel has been forced to defend the nation in such rocket wars along its borders, once with Hizbullah in Lebanon in 2006 and three times now with Hamas in Gaza, — including operations Cast Lead in 2008 and Pillar of Cloud in 2010.

Israel’s leaders were facing many of the same dilemmas as in these previous conflicts, such as trying to strike at an enemy embedded among a civilian population without alienating world opinion. The success of Iron Dome reduced pressure on the political leadership to launch an immediate ground incursion that could quickly drive up the casualty rate on both sides. But, with Hamas rockets reaching ever deeper into Israel, the Netanyahu government was determined to neutralize the threat in a way that ensured it would not keep recurring every few years.

The Israeli public supported the assertive military campaign against Hamas, even as they repeatedly scurried for cover every time the “Code Red” alarm sounded in city after city across the nation.

Amid the daily rocket barrages, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem received an urgent request from former Knesset member Shai Hermesh for bomb shelters for his home kibbutz of Kfar Aza, located just two kilometers from the Gaza border.

Many of the residents were in the community dining hall for breakfast that morning when the warning siren went off five separate times, with rockets falling all around. But the metal-roofed dining hall did not have any bomb shelters, leaving everyone in distress. So Hermesh contacted the ICEJ with a request for help, and we immediately ordered two portable bomb shelters that were delivered just two days later.

The delivery of the shelters came the morning after an art school for the community’s children suffered a direct hit by a Kassam rocket from Gaza.

Dr. Jürgen Bühler, ICEJ’s Executive Director, was on hand for the shelter deliveries as a show of solidarity with the farming village, whose 750 residents have endured hundreds of rocket and mortar barrages over the past decade. The new shelters will serve the kibbutz dining hall and its youth center.

“The Christian Embassy is committed to helping those Israeli communities under the greatest rocket threat to find shelter and weather this storm,” said Bühler. “It was a great feeling to be able to quickly supply these two new mobile bomb shelters for our embattled friends in Kfar Aza, and we are as grateful as they are for the Christians around the world who made it possible.”

The Christian Embassy also appealed for funds from Christians worldwide to cover the costs for more bomb shelters and to meet the urgent needs of those under the greatest rocket threat in the Gaza periphery.

Over the past seven years, the ICEJ has provided more than 40 portable bomb shelters to Israeli communities along the Gaza border suffering from frequent Hamas rocket attacks.

And, as with prior rocket wars on Israel, the Christian Embassy is sponsoring trips for poor families, children, the elderly, and the disabled so they can spend several relaxing days away from the front lines.

This has included taking hundreds of needy and war-weary Israelis from the Gaza border area to guesthouses on the Golan, day trips to the Dead Sea, and other outings. Some enjoyed visits to a chocolate factory, boat rides on the Sea of Galilee, time at a swimming pool, and outings on Mount Hermon, among other activities.

Some of the families have children with special needs and disabilities, and most would never have been able to afford such an outing.

Meanwhile, the ICEJ has also paid for emergency relief packages for needy families and the elderly in the hard-hit town of Sderot. The assistance has provided food for families, plus games and toys for children stuck inside at the height of summer. The funding also has covered emergency help to repair damaged homes, transportation to buy medications, and other special needs for the elderly.

As we go to press, it is difficult to assess exactly where this latest military confrontation will lead. But it is already clear that most of Israel is now within Hamas rocket range, and this crisis could take some time to play out.

Please help us to further respond to these challenging times for Israel. Give generously to the ICEJ’s “Israel in Crisis Fund,” which we will use to assist those communities most impacted by the current escalation.

Get involved in this relief effort by donating today at www.icejusa.org/relief-israelis-under-fire.

Get involved in this relief
The IDF’s paratroopers brigade operate within the Gaza Strip to find and disable Hamas’ network terror tunnels and eliminate their threat to Israeli civilians. The IDF has discovered over 30 tunnels in Gaza which are very extensive.

PHOTO: IDF website

effort by donating today at: www.icejusa.org/relief-israelis-under-fire
However, Peres leaves behind a complex legacy as originally he was considered a hawk. He was a major arms purchaser for the young nation’s struggling military, and as a noted Francophile, he helped forge the close ties with France which made Paris the main weapons supplier to Israel in the 1950s. He was also a central plotter in the secret deal with France and Great Britain to seize control of the Suez Canal which led to the unfruitful Sinai War of 1956. And perhaps most notably, Peres was the key figure who discreetly launched Israel’s nuclear program with French assistance.

But in more recent decades, Peres has headed Israel’s dovish left, opening contacts with the PLO in 1992 and relentlessly pursuing a final peace deal with the Palestinians ever since. Thus, some on the right blame him most of all for the failure of the Oslo process to bring peace and security to the nation.

Peres left office last month as the world’s oldest serving head of state. He also is the only Israeli politician who has held all five senior positions of power – as prime minister, foreign minister, defence minister, finance minister, and president [although he never won election as prime minister outright].

Peres remains widely respected by world leaders as a proponent of peace and an advocate of Israel’s unique economic potential. At a farewell event for Peres in Washington recently, Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer said that the secret to his political longevity is that he always “thinks young.”

Peres himself has often confessed to being the eternal optimist, but detractors claim that trait led him to trust PLO leader Yasser Arafat far too much as a partner for peace, a mistake he has repeated with Mahmoud Abbas.

In any event, Peres has enjoyed an incredibly long political career that will continue to impact Israel, the region, and the world for years to come.

His successor as Israel’s tenth president is Reuven “Ruby” Rivlin, a Likud party mainstay who is known for his love for his hometown of Jerusalem (including the capital’s Beitar soccer club), his support for minority rights for Israel’s Arab sector, and his leanings toward a one-state solution. A lawyer by profession, he was first elected to parliament in 1988 and has served as a cabinet minister and twice as Speaker of the Knesset.

FAREWELL TO PERES
BY DAVID PARSONS

In late July, Israel’s legendary Shimon Peres ended his seven-year term as the nation’s president. Now 90 years old, Peres has been in the thick of Israeli politics since the early 1950s, spanning a period of over 60 years. Starting out as a young assistant to founding premier, David Ben-Gurion, he is best known today as the undisputed leader of Israel’s peace camp for the past several decades.

His successor as Israel’s tenth president is Reuven “Ruby” Rivlin, a Likud party mainstay who is known for his love for his hometown of Jerusalem (including the capital’s Beitar soccer club), his support for minority rights for Israel’s Arab sector, and his leanings toward a one-state solution. A lawyer by profession, he was first elected to parliament in 1988 and has served as a cabinet minister and twice as Speaker of the Knesset.

ICEJ NEWS

ISRAEL’S TENTH PRESIDENT IS REUVEN “RUBY” RIVLIN, A LIKUD PARTY MAINSTAY WHO IS KNOWN FOR HIS LOVE FOR HIS HOMETOWN OF JERUSALEM.
ALIYAH

ICEJ STAFF WELCOME BNEI MENASHE TO ISRAEL
BY BIRTE SCHOLZ

Recently, more than a dozen ICEJ staff members in Jerusalem ventured to Ben-Gurion Airport to welcome home a group of 43 Bnei Menashe making aliyah from India on flights sponsored by the Christian Embassy.

The ICEJ’s welcoming party was joined by members of the Bnei Menashe community already living in Israel. Together, they held up “Welcome to Israel” signs and waited for the newcomers to make their way into the arrivals hall.

“IT is a privilege to be here and witness the ingathering of God’s people from the four corners of the world,” said ICEJ staff member Chris Chambers, from the UK.

It was also a touching moment for relatives waiting to reunite with loved ones.

“I had to wait for seven years to see my mother again,” said new arrival Lamneo as they hugged with tears and smiles.

Other family members had been separated for up to 14 years. Raviv Samte wore a huge smile as he proudly received relatives in an Israeli army uniform. Meanwhile, Jochanan and Jaffa were elated to show their young son Asaf to his grandparents for the first time.

The ICEJ staff greeted the new arrivals warmly, and handed out Israeli flags, balloons, and toys to the children.

“It is one thing to read and hear about what the Christian Embassy is doing but it is completely different to see it with my own eyes. It really impacted me to see that moment of joy in their faces while they were embracing each other,” said Sarah Ajileye, a new assistant for ICEJ Arise.

“One elderly lady grasped my hand and said, ‘Thank you so much!’” recalled Maxine Carlill, an ICEJ AID volunteer from Australia.

“It is a joy for both sides, for them and for us, to see the fulfilment of God’s Word,” added Lolita Kidess from the Philippines.

Please join the ICEJ in bringing more Bnei Menashe home to Israel, as well as endangered Jews making Aliyah from Ukraine and elsewhere.

Donate to our Aliyah fund today at: www.icejusa.org/aliyah

KURDISH GUESTS

Recently, the ICEJ leadership in Jerusalem hosted a visiting delegation which included several religious officials from the Kurdish regional government in northern Iraq. The Kurdish guests described the tolerance and friendly relations enjoyed between Christians, Muslims, Jews, and other faiths in their society (which is rare for many parts of the Middle East). Their visit to Israel came amid rising expectations that the Kurdish people, who are not ethnically Arabs, may soon declare an independent state in their historic homeland. Israel and the Kurds have grown closer over recent decades and could become regional allies should they secure their independence.
ICEJ-NORWAY HOSTS SUMMER CONFERENCE

The ICEJ-Norway Branch recently held its annual summer conference in a popular arena in the southern city of Kristiansand. Hosted by our new Norwegian National Director, Dag Øyvind Juliussen, the gathering featured a number of local speakers as well as ICEJ Executive Director, Dr. Jürgen Bühler; and ICEJ international speaker, Doron Schneider, from Jerusalem; plus Bethlehem Pastor, Dr. Naim Khoury. Over 1,100 people attended the conference, while a dynamic music team led the worship.

Dr. Bühler noted that while Israel is facing many challenges and threats, this gives rise to a lot of negative reporting and even preaching about the situation in Israel, when in fact the nation is also prospering and being blessed by the Lord. He cited the fact that many African and Asian countries are increasingly turning to Israel for their expertise not only in hi-tech but also for its agricultural advances and water management techniques.

Dr. Khoury gave a delightful message on the importance of prayer in the life of Christians. “When people ask me how we can still be a church, with all the bombs and shooting at us, I say that the answer is prayer, perseverance in prayer,” he said.

A number of Norwegian Christian leaders also delivered messages at the two-day conference, the first presided over by Rev. Juliussen since he was handed the reins of the ICEJ-Norway Branch by its founder and long-time Director, Leif Wellerop, earlier this year.

ICEJ JOINS EUROPEAN SUMMIT FOR ISRAEL IN BUDAPEST

In June ICEJ Executive Director, Dr. Jürgen Bühler, joined more than 20 European parliamentarians and three Israeli Knesset members at a pro-Israel summit held in Budapest, Hungary. The three-day European summit was hosted by the Israel Allies Foundation, which links pro-Israel legislators in democratic nations worldwide, and by the World Jewish Congress.

The European lawmakers all signed a declaration strongly condemning the recent kidnapping of three Israeli youths, who eventually were found shot to death. In addition, the declaration advocated a unified Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, denounced the troubling wave of anti-Semitism in Europe, and called for greater Western action against the persecution of Christians across the Middle East.

The parliamentarians then attended a mass rally at the Faith Church in Budapest, where some 12,000 evangelical Christians prayed for Israel. Dr. Bühler was among the key speakers addressing the rally.
The ICEJ’s annual Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem is an event unlike any other. Thousands of Christians come from all over the world for this joyous gathering in the presence of the Lord. The 35th annual Christian celebration of this exciting biblical holiday will be held this year in a new home – the brand new Jerusalem Arena!

The Feast of Tabernacles is your “appointed time” to be in Jerusalem for this unique and colorful celebration. So join fellow believers from more than 100 nations as we come together to worship the Lord, to hear powerful preaching of the Word of God, and to bless the people of Israel.

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES BY VISITING:
http://feast.icej.org/register
New Christians struggling to study their Bible are often taught to read the scriptures as though they were written personally to them, even reciting the scriptures using one’s own name in place of the verse’s subject. While it is important to apply scripture to one’s own life, it is equally important to not ignore the original context of the scripture and the original recipient of that particular promise.

For example, a special verse that brings comfort to a person who may be experiencing difficulty is Isaiah 49:16 “See, I have inscribed you [insert name] on the palms of My hands.” This verse lets the believer know that they are known by the Lord, and He holds them before Him, as it were, in the palms of His hands. It is a beautiful verse.

It may be a great surprise to many to learn that the verse is originally intended for Jerusalem, the city that personifies the people of Israel, for verse 17 goes on to say, “Your walls are continually before Me.” So an over personalization of the scriptures can actually result in a Christian who can recite verses from their Bible but has failed to understand what the book is about.

**Getting the “Big Picture”**
Another tendency in Bible study is to study by topic or book, which is understandable for such an immense book as the Bible. The danger, however, is walking away from a Bible study understanding everything there is to know about a particular topic, but not knowing the overall story of the Bible itself.

The Bible is the story of God’s love for the world, His plan to redeem that world, and the battle against that plan. The object of God’s love was always the world, and He chose Abraham to birth a nation through which He would carry out His plan to redeem that world. This is the overarching story that the Bible tells, and central to the story is the calling on the nation of Israel.

The Bible is, in fact, a Jewish book: written by, about, and largely for, Jews. Jesus even said that salvation is of the Jews! Christians are partakers of that salvation, and are able to apply the scriptures to their own lives, because they are the heirs of Abraham by faith. Through Jesus they are adopted into the family and are part of Abraham’s family tree. But, they do not replace the original family they are grafted into, nor do they annul God’s promises to them.

**Rewriting Scripture**
Some Christians have tried to claim that the Old Testament should no longer
be read literally about the people of Israel; it now only applies spiritually to the Church. This is known as Replacement Theology: the Church has replaced Israel in the plans and purposes of God. This spiritualization of scripture is actually a rejection of scripture by rewriting it to mean something other than its original meaning.

While some Replacement Theologians would deny rejecting or rewriting scripture, others are quite blatant about it. One such group is Sabeel. Founded by Palestinian Anglican Canon, Naim Ateek, Sabeel propagates Palestinian Liberation Theology and disregards any portion of scripture that disagrees with Ateek’s anti-Semitic views. He calls for scripture to be “de-Zionized” by removing all “Zionist” portions that afford any significance to the nation of Israel and any connection of the Jewish people to the Holy Land.

Anti-Semitic Theology
While that may sound ludicrous to most, Sabeel has the ear of some mainline denominations, one being the Presbyterian Church (USA). The group’s influence over the years has fanned the flames of Replacement Theology in the PCUSA and finally resulted in this summer’s vote to divest from companies doing business with Israel.

The denomination also published an anti-Semitic study guide earlier this year entitled “Zionism Unsettled,” in which Sabeel authored a chapter as did Replacement Theologian, Gary Burge. The study guide was imbalanced and malicious, and it intentionally over simplified the extremely complicated Arab-Israeli conflict in order to vilify Israel and Zionism. It was so biased that some Jewish groups called it “hate speech.”

The study guide ended with a group exercise suggesting that liturgy and hymns be edited so to avoid words like Israel, Zion, exile, covenant and return, as they might cause worshippers to confuse these biblical terms with modern events and people in the Holy Land.

Interesting, that all of this manipulation and conniving is with one intent in mind: rid scripture of the role of the nation of Israel. This, in complete contradiction to the words of the Apostle Paul that Israel’s calling cannot be revoked. Speaking specifically of the Jewish people, He said in Romans 11:29, “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

The problem is, of course, that if you want to remove Israel from the Bible, you will have little Bible left. Christianity then loses its spiritual roots, churches lose their moral authority, and their membership numbers dwindle. The PCUSA membership has dropped 26.8% over the last ten years. Let’s hope they see the error of their ways before it is too late.

TOUR OF ISRAEL & FEAST • October 8 - 18, 2014

call: 800-772-7732 x735 • email: icejusa@icejusa.org • online: www.icejusa.org

EXPERIENCE
OCTOBER 10 - 15, 2014
A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT
REGISTER TODAY
IN ISRAEL
FEAST.ICEJ.ORG

RESTORATION

JÜRGEN BÜHLER  JUHA KETOLA  SAMUEL RODRIGUEZ  PRINCE GUNERATNAM  ANGUS BUCHAN  BILLY WILSON  JOHN FRANCIS  JOHN PAUL JACKSON  MALCOLM HEDDING

FEAST of TABERNACLES 2014
PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM