Rediscovered in modern times, the Bnei Menashe were officially recognized by Israel’s Chief Rabbinate as having Jewish ancestry in 2005. Some 1,700 Bnei Menashe were then able to make the journey back to Israel, but their aliyah has been suspended since 2007. The remaining 7,200 members of the community have thus been living the past five years in uncertainty about their future. But their main advocate, Michael Freund, has now managed to persuade Israeli officials to resume their aliyah flights, with the first plane of 270 Bnei Menashe expected to arrive in September, just in time for the start of the new school year.

This first wave of 50 Bnei Menashe families is expected to be followed by another flight in time for Hanukkah in December.

“I will bring your descendants from the East.” Isaiah 43:5-7

Throughout their sojourn in exile the Bnei Menashe continued to practice Judaism, including observing the Sabbath, keeping kosher, celebrating the festivals, and following the laws of family purity. And they continued to dream of one day returning to the Land of Israel.
South Florida Israel Summit
August 26 @ 6.30pm
Featuring Chaim Shacham, Susan Michael, Erick Stakelbeck and more. A dynamic night of inspiring speakers, Israel music and dance.
Temple Beth El - West Palm Beach, FL
More information: www.icejusa.org/events

UPCOMING ICEJ SEMINARS
FOR BOOKING INFORMATION CALL: (615) 895-9830

Tulsa, OK - Sept 12-15
For Such a Time as This
Saturday, September 15 @ 9am
Victory Christian Center
7700 S. Lewis Ave. Tulsa, OK
Carrie Burns & Susie Sandager
www.icejusa.org/events

Wednesday, September 12 @ 7pm
‘Corrie Remembers’ - Susie Sandager
Victory Christian Center

Thursday, September 13 @ 7pm
‘Holocaust in Holland’
Dr. Carrie Burns & Susie Sandager
Oral Roberts University

Please mail all donations to:
PO Box 440276
Nashville, TN 37244
Or make your tax-deductible gift online:
www.icejusa.org

Come to the Feast! • Call: 1-866-393-5890 • Online: feast.icej.org
Heal our Land

BY SUSAN MICHAEL
DIRECTOR, ICEJ USA

The United States of America was founded by men committed to the Judeo-Christian principals of faith, liberty and justice. At least 52 of the men who crafted the Declaration of Independence were Christian. The US Constitution, proclamations of prayer and thanksgiving to God, hundreds of our national monuments, thousands of legislative acts, letters and personal papers of our original Founding Fathers, all attest to the claim that America was founded to be a biblical “city on a hill.”

But what was so evident then has become a major issue of contention now as a vocal minority are driving God and church out of the American culture. They are doing this under the guise of “separation of Church and State” - a dictate now governing the faith and values of American culture - that is not found in any of our governing documents despite the widespread modern belief to the contrary.

Concerning religion, the Constitution (specifically, the First Amendment to the Constitution) states only that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

Significantly, both clauses restricted the actions of the federal government; neither restricted the actions of citizens. Quite the contrary, America was founded by immigrants fleeing religious persecution who were seeking freedom of worship.

Today, we are at a critical point in our history. We have removed God from our schools and marketplace and as a result our culture is in a serious state of moral decay. It is prohibited to display the very Ten Commandments that our laws and society were built upon. The Judeo-Christian foundations are eroding away and a secular, godless society is taking shape.

Although we have shut God out, the Hebrew scriptures, on which our nation’s laws were founded, are clear that if we return to God then He will return to us.

JOIN OUR EMAIL PRAYER LIST: WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG/HEALOURLAND
ICEJ Funds new Disabled Center in Beit Jallah

By Birte Scholz

This summer, a delegation from the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem took part in the opening of a new facility for disabled Palestinian Arabs in the Christian town of Beit Jallah, on the western edge of Bethlehem, which was funded in part by a generous donation from ICEJ Germany.

The new building is run by a German Christian ministry which has been serving handicapped Arabs in the Bethlehem area for over a decade, helping them integrate better into society.

The new facility will house vocational workshops for the disabled, seminar rooms, and several rehabilitation programs. An additional story will be completed by the fall which will contain a school for disabled children and a medical clinic.

Friends and supporters of the new center joined local officials, construction workers, disabled children and their families, along with the center’s staff for the opening ceremonies. Burghard Schunkert from Germany, director of the center, welcomed the guests and thanked everyone for their assistance.

“We built this house with the help of many good people,” Schunkert said. “We are able to serve handicapped people even better now and we can offer them new ways to live their lives.”

“In Palestinian society there is a big rejection of disabled children,” he explained. “The parents say a wheelchair in class will distract their children. We believe it will be an asset for everybody to educate impaired and healthy children together.”

The highlight of the opening was the cutting of a ribbon by one of the disabled students at the center. Sitting in her electric wheelchair, Asma snipped the ribbon with a big smile on her face.

Some 20 years ago, she fell from the roof of her house while hanging out the laundry and lost a leg. She endured many operations but Christian workers lovingly took care of her and helped her complete an apprenticeship. Today, Asma works at the knitting workshop, earns her own living, and leads a largely independent life.

Afterwards, handicapped students staged a play, and then sang and danced for the gathering. Dressed as colorful butterflies, the kindergarten children performed an Arabic song ‘We are spring.’

Join us in supporting this and other projects for the disabled in Israel.

Give to ICEJ AID today at:
www.icejusa.org/aid
ICEJ honored for funding community for Holocaust survivors

In late June, the City of Haifa recognized the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem for funding Israel’s largest assisted-living facility for Holocaust survivors by naming the street where it is located the “Christian Embassy Center.”

ICEJ Executive Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler led a delegation of Embassy staff to the dedication ceremony, which was hosted by our charitable partner Shimon Sabag and also was attended by Haifa city officials and numerous Holocaust survivors.

Over the past two years, the Christian Embassy has funded a special project to expand an assisted-living facility in Haifa for impoverished Holocaust survivors. The ICEJ purchased and renovated two apartment buildings in the Hadar neighborhood, with the enlarged facility now able to accommodate over 100 residents as well as to feed and provide medical care for additional survivors in the Haifa area.

At the dedication, the ICEJ handed over another check for $150,000 to finish some improvements at the Haifa Home. The Christian Embassy is still raising more funds to help operate the assisted-living home, as well as to purchase and renovate several more apartment buildings that have become available on the same street. An additional $750,000 will be needed to complete this latest phase of the expansion project.

The growing group of residents of the “warm home” are all Jewish survivors who spent their childhoods trapped inside Nazi-occupied Europe. Those admitted to the home are drawn from a long list of survivors in dire need of assistance with housing and medical care.

An estimated 200,000 Holocaust survivors currently live in Israel, and up to one-third of these are in dire financial straits, often due to exorbitant medical bills. More than 2,000 applicants, mostly survivors of Nazi camps in Poland and Germany, have joined the waiting list for a place in the Haifa Home. A careful selection process identified the most worthy tenants based on need.

Please help us care for aging Holocaust survivors in Israel. Make your tax-deductible gift online at: www.icejusa.org/aid
Last Christmas Eve, Pastor Umar Mulinde was assaulted by radical Muslims with a very potent acid as he left his church in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. After vainly seeking adequate medical care for his severe facial burns in hospitals in Uganda and India, he was invited to Israel as a “medical tourist” and admitted to Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv, known for its world-class treatment of burn victims.

Ever since, Pastor Mulinde has been receiving the best care possible and is slowly recovering thanks to advanced skin-grafting techniques and other procedures performed by Sheba. Although he lost his right eye, doctors are confident his wounds will fully heal and he will be happy with his restored face.

So far, Sheba Medical Center has waived the enormous medical bills that have piled up for Pastor Mulinde’s care, treating him as if he were an Israeli victim of terror. The reason is that he is a Muslim convert to Christianity who was attacked by Islamic militants for sharing his faith and for teaching his followers to love Israel.

Pastor Mulinde has truly appreciated the top-notch care at Sheba, but he has sorely missed his family and felt helpless to protect them from the continuing death threats being received by his church back home. So in June, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem sponsored a visit to Israel by his wife Evelyn and the two youngest of his six children – twin brothers Joshua and Caleb.

The family reunion included a tour of Israel sponsored by the ICEJ and arranged by Shoresh Tours out of Christ Church, who specialize in “Hebraic Roots” tours of the Holy Land and just happened to have a large group of Ugandan pastors arriving on a visit to the land in early June.

“I have been in pain and mostly alone for six months, but it was physically and emotionally encouraging to see my wife and two sons,” said Mulinde.

“We are so thankful for the support of the Christian Embassy. This has been a very exciting moment for us to be together, and a learning moment for our family – to learn more about the Bible here in the Land of Israel.”

“This visit has really helped my twin sons, who are only three-and-a-half years old and had started questioning why God would let their father suffer so much,” Mulinde added. “But when they saw the land and the Bible sites, their faith was really encouraged. God is real again in their lives!”

The ICEJ has also just published a booklet with Pastor Mulinde’s powerful testimony of how he came to faith in Jesus and learned to love Israel, as well as his personal account of the trials he has faced since the terror attack late last year. You may order “Facing Persecution: The Story of Umar Mulinde” from Embassy Resources online at: www.icej.org/store.
The ‘living waters’ of Brazil

Among my recent travels to oversee the ICEJ’s network of international branches, a highlight was a trip in June to the annual conference in Brazil organized by our Brazilian national director Apostle Rene Terra Nova. The gathering again drew some 100,000 Christians for a closing rally at the Samba Stadium in the city of Manaus, located at the mouth of the great Amazon River. This huge water source indeed gives one a great picture in the natural of what the Lord is doing spiritually in this part of the world.

Over 6,000 kilometers long, the Amazon River carries more water than any other river in the world and contributes some 20 per cent of the fresh water which flows into the world’s oceans each year! By this massive river stands the port city of Manaus, with its 1.6 million residents, more than half of whom are born-again believers!

The church pastored by Apostle Terra Nova alone has 70,000 members! Brazil as a whole has over 42 million Evangelical believers now, some 22% of its 200 million population. The body of believers grew by 16 million in the last decade alone. So ‘rivers of living water’ are flowing in this land from hearts set ablaze by Jesus (John 7:38-39).

Just before the ICEJ’s annual conference there, a staggering one million Christians joined the yearly ‘March for Jesus’ event in Manaus. The influence of the Church is to be seen everywhere in this tropical city, including in the city leadership, as the present Vice Mayor of Manaus has been a part of Pastor Terra Nova’s church leadership for many years.

Terra Nova also oversees a vast church network of about six million Christians in Brazil and across Latin America, and from this position he has taken an unashamed stand to bless and pray for Israel.

I travelled to Brazil with my colleague ICEJ Executive Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler and our wives, as well as with Israeli Knesset Member Robert Ilatov, who was eager to see the Brazilian people and landscape first-hand.

MK Ilatov was received warmheartedly and engaged with some 6,000 local pastors about how they can bless and support his nation. Later, at the final rally, he delivered official greetings on behalf of the state of Israel to the vast crowd of 100,000 pro-Israel Christians.

Dr. Bühler and I also conducted special teaching sessions for the pastors about God’s plans for Israel. Jürgen then preached at the Stadium rally, highlighting the importance and meaning of the Chosen People.

As the Amazon River passes Manaus, you can see a unique phenomenon, with blue and brown waters, warm and cold, flowing distinctly side-by-side. You can put your hand in the water and feel the difference in temperature. This is also a picture of spiritual truths. The world is growing cold towards God and His people, but the body of Christ in Brazil is warm towards Israel and is prospering and moving forward in power. What about the body of Christ in your nation? Can you feel the difference?
“The return of this lost tribe to Zion more than 2,700 years after their ancestors were exiled by the Assyrian empire is nothing less than a miracle,” said Freund.

“The Israeli government and Jewish Agency have requested that the ICEJ pay for their flights,” added Howard Flower, the ICEJ’s Director of Aliyah Operations. “So the Christian Embassy has stepped into the gap and pledged to cover the first flight planned for September and hopefully more to come.”

Soon after their arrival, each family will be eligible to receive government funding to help pay for their housing and other absorption costs. The families will eventually be settled in the Galilee.

The return of the Bnei Menashe provides an amazing opportunity for Christians to express our love and support for Israel, and to participate in the promised last-day return of the Jewish people to their homeland. But we need your immediate help, as the expected costs for the first flight of Bnei Menashe will be more than $300,000.

So please give generously to make the dreams of the Bnei Menashe come true, according to God’s promise to bring home Israel’s descendants “from the East!”

Play a part in biblical prophecy, as Israel’s sons return to her borders. Support the aliyah efforts of the ICEJ at: www.icej.org/aid/aliyah