How else can you explain the recent decision by Britain’s Guardian newspaper to issue an apology for printing a picture of Jews in Jerusalem pausing to remember the victims of the Holocaust? The error? The caption, “wrongly referred to the city as the Israeli capital,” the editors stated. “Jerusalem is not the capital of Israel; Tel Aviv is.”

Tel Aviv?

Of course, diplomats across the world would prefer Tel Aviv to be the capital of Israel, but that’s only an opinion. According to Israeli people themselves, Jerusalem is their eternal, undivided capital, the seat of their government and the heart of their nation. Deny it all you like, but the truth is irrefutable.

But we no longer care about the truth, it seems. We live in an age in which the media considers it utterly dispensable.

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>> CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was founded in 1980 as an act of comfort and solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people in their claim to Jerusalem.

Today, the Christian Embassy stands at the forefront of a growing mainstream movement of Christians worldwide who share a love and concern for Israel and an understanding of the biblical significance of the modern ingathering of Jews to the land of their forefathers.

From our headquarters in Jerusalem and through our branches and representatives in over 80 nations, we seek to challenge the Church to take up its scriptural responsibilities towards the Jewish people, to remind Israel of the wonderful promises made to her in the Bible, and to be a source of practical assistance to all the people of the Land of Israel.

The ICEJ’s United States Branch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with offices in Washington, D.C. and in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. We are a non-denominational faith ministry supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends.

We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by using the enclosed response card to make your donation to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.

Please mail all donations to:
PO Box 440276
Nashville, TN 37244

Or make your tax-deductible gift online:
www.icejusa.org

UPCOMING ICEJ SPEAKING EVENTS
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (615) 895-9830

Murfreesboro, TN
Israel, the Church & the Nations
May 19th-20th
World Outreach Church
1921 New Salem Hwy
Malcolm Hedding, Eric Metaxas,
Allen Jackson with Paul Wilbur

Titusville, FL
John Small
Sunday June 3rd: 8.30 & 10.30am
Hope Community Fellowship
2929 Cheney Highway

Huntsville, AL
Discerning the Times
Saturday June 23rd: 9am
The Dwelling Place
2550 Redstone Rd.
Daryl Hedding & Michael Hines

Yorba Linda, CA
Israel: The Elusive Peace
May 25th-27th
Richfield Community Church
5320 Richfield Road
George Giacumakis, Malcolm Hedding;
Susan Michael & Deby Brown

Huntsville, AL
Michael Hines
Sunday June 24th: 10.30am
The Dwelling Place
2550 Redstone Rd

Surprise, AZ
Understanding Israel
Saturday July 21st: 9am
Church for the Nations
14795 W. Mountain View Blvd
Larry Booth & Michael Hines

Grafted Summer ‘Hands On’ Tour
June 28th - July 8th, 2012 (Ages 18-35)
A life-changing opportunity for young adults
to gain a biblical perspective on the Mid East
and participate in ‘hands on’ service projects.
Cost $1,240 (Excluding flights, tips)
www.grafted.org

2012 Feast of Tabernacles Tour
September 22nd - October 6th, 2012
Don’t just visit the land of the Bible,
encounter the God of the Bible at the
Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem.
Cost $3,987 (includes flights, hotels)
www.icejusa.org/tours
As we gather across the country this month to lift up this nation before the Lord, I would ask you to consider setting time aside every month to pray with us for America and Israel in a special online prayer campaign we are initiating in the lead up to the November Presidential election.

Regarding those placed in leadership over nations, the Apostle Paul wrote:

“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.” (Romans 13:1)

There is no doubt that national leaders are important to God as they reflect what the people deserve and are even called the “Minister of God” in scripture (Romans 13:4). This is not in a redeemed sense but in responsibility and accountability to God.

Leaders set the “tone” for a nation and have huge influence, so blessed are the people who have wise and good leadership! The supreme example of this is David’s reign over Israel. He was a godly King and his people knew it and were greatly blessed. His final eulogy in life included these humble words:

“Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.” (2 Chronicles 29:12)

David always understood that he ruled under the “hand of God.” Nebuchadnezzar, the arrogant King of Babylon learned this lesson the hard way but once he got it he wrote:

“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of Heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.” (Daniel 4:37)

Leaders are therefore very important to God and for this reason Paul commanded that they must occupy the first place of priority in terms of the prayer ministry of the local church.

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for Kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

In November of this year our nation will choose its leaders again. The truth is that God will choose who reigns over us but He does invite us to work with Him in this process by giving ourselves to prayer and intercession. We cannot as a people ignore this “invitation” and it must be accepted with repentance and humility.

Daniel prayed for his nation but he did so in a manner that reflected his own repentance. (Daniel 9:4-19) Yes, we need to repent because we, the people of God, have not been “salt and light” to our nation.

May God have mercy upon us!

Humble • Pray • Seek • Repent

The US Branch of the ICEJ calls upon you to join with us in prayer every month for the upcoming Presidential Elections and for America’s relationship with Israel. This is no small matter as the destiny of our great nation rests on the prayers, intercession and supplications of God’s people everywhere. Please join us as we humble ourselves before Him, to pray and seek His face, to repent and to trust that He will heal our land!
Bible scholars have long debated exactly what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 of a great “falling away” in the last days, before “the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.” Most agree that it refers to a mass apostasy of Christians abandoning the faith in the end times, just before the Antichrist appears.

The Church in pre-war Germany during the 1930s provides perhaps one of the clearest examples in history of what might transpire. It would serve us well to learn from the errors made by German Christians in that unique period when Hitler – a type of anti-Christ – rose to power.

Most German Christians in those days did not think the Nazis would really carry out their threats against the Jews, as there was no precedent yet for genocide on such a massive scale as the Holocaust. There was also a strong evangelical tradition in Germany that believed in the enduring calling over the Jewish people and even anticipated a Jewish return to the Land of Israel.

Meantime, the local Jewish communities viewed Germany as something of a paradise because they were becoming so well integrated into society. Some German Jews even spoke of entering a Messianic age.

So the question is: How could a country with such a strong spiritual heritage fall so deeply? The answer is not simple and may never be fully answered. But in the period prior to the Holocaust a number of spiritual developments took place which removed important safeguards from large parts of the Church in Germany.

1. Denying the Truth of the Word

Even though Germany was at the center of the great Reformation, it also opened the door in the late 1600s to secular liberalism. While Luther was first to translate the entire Bible into a common language, other German theologians soon began questioning its truthfulness. By the early 20th century, many were suggesting the Bible was just a collection of fables.

This liberal theological approach peaked in 1942 when Rudolph Bultmann, a German Lutheran, called for demythologizing the Gospels – meaning the removal of the Resurrection and other supposed miracles. He believed that only the bare fact of Christ crucified was necessary for the Christian faith. This novel idea spread quickly throughout the world.

2. Resisting the Holy Spirit

The Pentecostal movement birthed at the Azusa Street Revival in 1906 rapidly spread to Europe, first to Norway and from there to Germany. The ecstatic nature of these early revival meetings offended many in the sober and well-educated German

**Lessons in ‘FALLING AWAY’**

Where the Church went wrong in pre-war Germany

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**Dr. Juergen Buehler**

ICEJ Executive Director
evangelical leadership. In 1909 they met in Berlin and issued what was called “the Berlin Declaration”, which stated that the Pentecostal experience was demonic and thus off limits to German parishioners. This declaration was only revoked in 1996.

3. Failure to Discern the Times

Before 1932, many evangelical Christians in Germany still held strong nationalist and even monarchist views. They felt that the dismantling of Kaiser Wilhelm’s throne was leading to a strong decay of moral values in Germany. Meantime, the Bolsheviks had removed the czars and brought communism to Russia, accompanied by stiff persecution of the Russian church. With the communists gaining popularity in Germany, many Protestant Christians saw the Nazis more as a conservative bulwark against the rise of atheistic communism.

Thus many Christians welcomed the Nazis and saw Hitler as restoring morality in Germany – night clubs were closed, homosexuality was banned, and the streets were made safe again. So, the Church fell for Hitler because they thought the danger was coming more from the radical Left. There were pastors who did speak out against Hitler and some even had to pay with their lives, but they were too few to impact the nation.

Lessons to be Learned

Paul tells us in II Thessalonians 2: 9-12 that, “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie...”

Paul warns here that the lack of “a love of the truth” creates a vacuum in our hearts where powerful deceptions can take hold. This is exactly what happened in Germany, as liberal theologians undermined love and respect for the word of God. Consequently, a powerful deception crept in and eventually took over an entire nation. So we must never allow the authority of the Word of God to be diminished in our own lives. Rather, let us draw daily nourishment from the Word of God. It is a light in dark times.

In addition, we urgently need the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said the Spirit will lead us into all truth and will even tell us of things to come (John 16:13). We need the prophetic voice of the Spirit even when it conflicts with the trends in our culture. German Christians had rejected a genuine move of the Holy Spirit and thereby closed the door to His voice. We face challenging times ahead and will not be able to survive without His guidance. We need a daily hunger to hear from the Holy Spirit.

Finally, we must have our identity firmly established in the Kingdom of God. German Christians had too much faith in a strong national redeemer. They failed greatly. Many German Christians saw themselves first as Germans and only secondly as Christians. While the Bible clearly admonishes us to pray for our governments and to be loyal and law-abiding citizens, we should never forget that our true identity and citizenship lies in heaven with the people of God (Hebrews 11:13-16).

Let us together learn these lessons from history. In doing so, God will keep us from falling and enable us to be a powerful testimony to the world around us.

Dr. Juergen Buehler serves as ICEJ Executive Director and travels extensively teaching on the restoration of Israel in these times. He lives in Jerusalem with his wife and children.
ICEJ Joins Holocaust Observances at Yad Vashem

As Israel observed its annual Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 19, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was invited to join senior Israeli government figures and Jewish leaders from around the world at the official ceremonies at Yad Vashem.

The Yom HaShoah events began with an evening ceremony in Warsaw Ghetto Square at Yad Vashem attended by Israeli President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and IDF Chief-of-Staff Benny Gantz, among other dignitaries and special guests. The evening featured the moving personal testimonies of six Holocaust survivors who lit candles for the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

The next morning, a two-minute siren sounded across Israel in memory of those who perished in the Nazi genocide. Immediately following the nationwide siren, Peres and Netanyahu were the first to lay wreaths back in Warsaw Ghetto Square. Moments later, Gottfried Buehler, national director for ICEJ-Germany, and ICEJ media director David Parsons laid a wreath on behalf of the Christian Embassy as well as Christians Friends of Yad Vashem, the Embassy’s unique partnership with that revered institution.

“It was quite an honor to be part of this solemn occasion, especially as a German Christian,” noted Gottfried Buehler. “Our welcome involvement shows there has been progress made towards Jewish-Christian reconciliation, but we Christians still have so much more to do.”

Meantime, the ICEJ sponsored a Christian Leadership seminar at Yad Vashem the same week so that participants could also be in Jerusalem to experience the Yom HaShoah ceremonies. A group of 26 Christian pastors and ministry leaders from 11 countries around the world took part in the week-long conference, which featured intensive training sessions conducted by the International School for Holocaust Studies and Christian Friends of Yad Vashem.

The seminars aimed to give these Christian leaders the tools necessary to speak authoritatively about the history of antisemitism and the factual basis of the Shoah. The conference included in-depth tours of the museum, archives and research facilities at Yad Vashem, plus personal encounters with Holocaust survivors and lectures by leading scholars in the field of Holocaust education.

The responses from participants were overwhelmingly positive. Several praised the high quality of the scholarship presented in the seminars, while everyone found the times of engagement with Holocaust survivors to be unforgettable.

Rosemary Schindler, grand niece of Oscar Schindler, the Righteous Gentile immortalized in the movie Schindler’s List,
I found the ceremonies extremely profound and emotional. The thing that impacted me the most was to hear from the six survivors representing the six million Jewish victims of the Nazis at the candle-lighting ceremony,” he added.

“One thing we can actually do is to give a proper Christian voice to these atrocities; that this was an unprecedented fact and we need to proclaim that in our congregations. We need to stand up and declare this was wrong!”

This latest Christian Leadership Seminar was made possible largely through donations from ICEJ-Germany. Yad Vashem recognized these contributions by unveiling a plaque last month honoring Christian Stephan, the long-time director of the ICEJ’s German branch who passed away in late February.

The ICEJ is committed to sponsoring another Christian Leadership Seminar at Yad Vashem for a new group of pastors and ministry leaders in the autumn of 2012, as well as two more in 2013. Please consider sponsoring pastors from your country to come learn important historic lessons and values at Yad Vashem.

Help support the work of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem: www.icejusa.org/yadvashem

SCHINDLER: Rosemary Schindler, grand niece of Oscar Schindler, discusses the benefits of the ICEJ-sponsored Christian Leaders Seminar with David Parsons (Photo: CEJ Staff)

NASHVILLE REMEMBERS
Holocaust Day Symposium 2012

Each spring the nation of Israel sets aside a day to remember the 6 million lives lost in the Holocaust. This year ICEJ-USA joined Mrs Annette Lantos - the widow of the late US Congressman Tom Lantos - to mark the occasion at a Nashville area Holocaust Day Symposium, hosted by former ICEJ Executive Director, Rev. Malcolm Hedding. Altogether the gathering raised some $3,000 towards the care of needy Holocaust survivors at the ICEJ’s assisted-living home in Haifa.

In her keynote address, Mrs Lantos told how she and her husband were among the thousands of Hungarian Jewish teens saved by the bravery of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenburg - born 100 years ago this year. Her daughter, Dr. Katrina Swett, president of the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, then spokemovingly of how her own seven children owed their lives to the self-sacrifice of Wallenburg - a Christian who disappeared shortly after the War and is presumed to have died in Soviet captivity.

Organized by Dr. David Schimp in partnership with the ICEJ, Hayovel and the Lantos Foundation, the Nashville Days of Remembrance also featured the presentation of new Israeli postage stamp commissioned in honor of Tom Lantos. The presentation (pictured above) was made to Mrs Lantos by local ICEJ supporter Nancy Fox on behalf of the International Raoul Wallenburg Foundation.

In addition to contributions from a number of local Christian leaders and musicians, the Symposium concluded with the reminder of the prophetic promise given in Ezekiel 37, “We have been called to speak life into the ‘dry bones’ of Jewish suffering and to acknowledge the hand of God in bringing His people back to their homeland,” said the ICEJ’s US Media Director Michael Hines.

“I only wish my father were alive to hear that,” sighed Dr. Swett as the event drew to an end. “It would mean so much to him!”

Nashville Days of Remembrance 2012 event

SCHINDLER: Rosemary Schindler, grand niece of Oscar Schindler, discusses the benefits of the ICEJ-sponsored Christian Leaders Seminar with David Parsons (Photo: CEJ Staff)

“Apart from learning a lot more about the Holocaust, it's also been part of my personal journey of faith,” explained British pastor Mike Kery. “One of the things that has really left an impression on me is to realize the impact this has had on every Jewish family in the world.”

As a pastor it’s wonderful for me as I’m learning not just the history of the Holocaust, but more than that of the roots behind it and how the teaching of Replacement Theology came into place and grew through the centuries,” stated Pastor Tim Carscadden from Louisiana.

“It’s so helpful to hear from these Holocaust survivors because you feel what they went through. And it was good to also hear how some Christians helped them and to know that not all of the Church was totally silent,” he continued.

“I am also seeing the parallels with racism in the American South and I can identify with how it gets entrenched in a culture. And this course at Yad Vashem helps me to be able to combat that back home,” he assured.

“Every nation needs to take that two minutes and join Israel when they stand and honor the Holocaust victims each year,” she insisted.

“One thing we can do is to give a proper Christian voice to these atrocities... to stand up and declare this was wrong!”

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SCHINDLER: Rosemary Schindler, grand niece of Oscar Schindler, discusses the benefits of the ICEJ-sponsored Christian Leaders Seminar with David Parsons (Photo: CEJ Staff)
In late April CBS News aired a 60 Minutes special on Christians in the Holy Land. In it, veteran correspondent Bob Simon painted a picture of an ancient beleaguered faith community, “squeezed between a growing Muslim majority and burgeoning Israeli settlements.” Yet, rather than investigate why half the Christian population of Gaza has fled since the armed Hamas takeover in 2006, Simon was only interested in blaming Israel. He didn’t want to complicate his story with any unnecessary facts, I guess.

So, in a series of emotive interviews with Catholic and Greek Orthodox priests, Palestinian homeowners living in the shadow of Bethlehem’s security wall, and Christian supporters of the corrupt governing Fatah regime, Simon demonstrated how oppressive Israeli security measures were driving Christians out of the Holy Land. The same measures, he acknowledged, have reduced terrorist attacks by 90%, but he was quick to brush that inconvenient fact aside, accusing Israel of “turning the ‘little town’ where Christ was born into what its residents call ‘an open air prison.’”

But who is the true villain of the piece according to 60 Minutes? Dr. Michael Oren, Israel’s US Ambassador - the only person interviewed whose assertions were not taken at face value. To add insult to injury the Ambassador was openly criticized – even ridiculed on air – for daring to question the objectivity of Simon’s reporting.

In Paul’s Second letter to Timothy, the apostle describes a time in history when people with “itching ears” will surround themselves with those who tell them what they want to hear. “They will turn their ears away from the truth,” he warns, “and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

The message is a sobering one for our nation today. A society that has closed its ears to the facts will be led astray by fables. Michael Hines serves as Media Director for the ICEJ’s US Branch and is the former editor of the ICEJ Daily News Service from Jerusalem.