HOME AT LAST!
ICEJ sponsors resumed aliyah flights for Bnei Menashe
Dear friends,

The new year started here in Jerusalem with all our staff observing three days of fasting and prayer. We prayed for our own personal walks with the Lord, for a fresh touch of God on our lives. We also prayed for our ministry – for growth, for projects old and new, and for the necessary finances to be released to accomplish all He has called us to do. Finally, we interceded for Israel and all the surrounding nations, for God's Spirit to move mightily throughout the region.

We know our prayers are heard by God and He will answer them in due season, not because of us but because He promised to do so in His word. I want to encourage you to make prayer a top priority this year. There is nothing more important than spending time in the presence of God. Please consider joining our Isaiah 62 Prayer Campaign and partner with us in prayer. Israel needs our prevailing prayers.

Our last major activity in 2012 was to welcome home to Israel the first group of new arrivals from the Bnei Menashe community in northeast India. They landed at Ben-Gurion Airport on Christmas Eve and represent a ‘first fruit’ of more groups to come in the months ahead. It is one of the most exciting moments to see ancient biblical prophecies being fulfilled with your own eyes. Christians from all over the world have become involved in helping us finance these initial flights of the Bnei Menashe tribe to Israel. Please join us in this incredible aliyah project.

As I write this we are in the midst of one of the strongest winter storms in recent years, which is bringing historic levels of rainfall to Israel. It is much needed as the level of the main water source in Israel – the Sea of Galilee – has been dangerously low. Today, we saw on the news most of the streams in Israel reaching extremely high levels, and traffic was banned on Tel Aviv’s main freeway due to the flooding. Even large parts of the desert valleys are inundated with rain water.

Isaiah declares, “Behold, I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:19)

What is the exception today will become the standard for tomorrow: Streams in the desert!

If you are thirsty, Jesus invites you to come to him and drink so those streams of living water will flow out of our lives and will bring God’s regenerating touch to the people around us (John 7:38).

Be blessed in this new year 2013!

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director
CONTENTS

4 HOME AT LAST!
ICEJ SPONSORS RESUMED ALIYAH FLIGHTS FOR BNEI MENASHE

10 YEAR IN REVIEW

18 THE WORLD IN 2013
BY DR. JÜRGEN BÜHLER

28 ANNIHILATION OR REDEMPTION?
Has Israel been re-gathered just to face a nuclear holocaust?
BY DAVID PARSONS

NEXT ISSUE!
Coming up in next month’s Word From Jerusalem

It’s Passover Time!
ICEJ AID prepares for Pessach/Easter holiday distributions
Bible teachings on the meaning of Passover

Empowering young Israelis!
ICEJ opportunities to impact Education in Israel
Branch reports
From Nigeria to Hawaii

BROADCASTING HOPE

Watch the ICEJ REPORT on "Israel Now News" Every Sunday

7 AM and 3PM (EST) / DayStar TV
Please note that the program will show at different times around the globe. Consult the Daystar TV Schedule and select your Time Zone to see when Israel Now News broadcasts in your region. Check the Daystar TV Schedule.
Not sure if you receive Daystar TV in your area? Check your local TV provider.
HOME AT LAST!

ICEJ SPONSORS RESUMED ALIYAH FLIGHTS FOR BNEI MENASHE

BY DAVID PARSONS
HOME AT LAST!

ICEJ sponsors rest Levi
flight for BnEI menasHE
by david parsons
The Bnei Menashe (“Sons of Manasseh”) are a people living in northeast India who claim descent from one of the ten “Lost Tribes” of Israel. In 732 BC, their ancestors were exiled by the Assyrians into the region of today’s Iran. From there, they journeyed eastward along the Silk Road to China, where for centuries they formed part of the community of Kaifeng Jews. They later wandered southward and eventually settled in the states of Mizoram and Manipur, located in an isolated enclave of India laying between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

From there the Bnei Menashe continued to cling to their biblical traditions and identity. They kept the Sabbath and observed kosher laws, celebrated the Jewish festivals, and practiced sacrificial rites.

Rediscovered in modern times, their Israelite ancestry was officially recognised by Israel’s rabbinic authorities in 2005. This allowed an initial wave of 1,700 Bnei Menashe to make their way home, but their aliyah was stopped two years later.

Michael Freund, head of the organisation Shavei Israel, has been working tirelessly ever since to reopen the way for them to reconnect with Israel and the Jewish mainstream. At his urging, the Israeli government recently approved a process which will enable the remaining 7,200 Bnei Menashe to come home in groups of around 250 at a time.

The first group of 274 Bnei Menashe are currently arriving on weekly flights from India to Israel via Tashkent, and the next group is expected to start arriving in late Spring. The Christian Embassy is sponsoring their flights home.

The Bnei Menashe community already living in Israel for several years. Though still a distinct looking people, the crowd of relatives and friends waiting anxiously in the Arrivals Hall also reflected the diversity of Israeli society. Amid the eager welcoming party could be seen one Bnei Menashe man wearing the pressed uniform of an IDF officer while another sported the long trademark side-curls and white garments of the Breslov Hassidic sect.

There were many tearful embraces as brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nephews and nieces all joined in the happy family reunions.

Tzvi Khante, one of the earliest Bnei Menashe pioneers to arrive in Israel nearly 13 years ago, explained that the veteran community can

To watch a video report about the Bnei Menashe, go to: www.icejusa.org/lost-tribe
now help the newcomers adjust to life in Israel a lot easier than they did. He noted that the early arrivals had already proven to the Israeli public that the Bnei Menashe are close-knit families instilled with a good work ethic, and they also make patriotic citizens.

“This is about returning to our land, our people and our Torah”, insisted Tzvi, who coordinates the Bnei Menashe aliyah efforts for Shavei Israel. “It also means we are moving that much closer to the redemption of Israel.”

“This is one of those moments where you really feel the hand of God at work in history”, noted Michael Freund. “Despite the long exile and wanderings of the Bnei Menashe, they never lost sight of who they are or where they came from, or where they one day dreamt of returning.”

“This is a development of profound historic significance. God is re-gathering the children of Israel from some of the most remote places on earth. No one can deny this.”

“Another thing we cannot overlook is that Jews and Christians are joining together to make this happen, just as the Hebrew prophets foretold”, added Freund. “This is a miracle as well. We deeply appreciate the assistance of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem and our other Christian friends.”

How you can help

In recent decades, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has helped some 115,000 Jewish people make the journey home to Israel.

Please join us in helping more Jews come home to Israel. You may designate your gift to support the Aliyah Operations of the ICEJ by donating at:

www.icejusa.org/donate/bnei-menashe
ICEJ ALIYAH

BNEI MENASHE FAMILY PROFILES

The Manlun Family

Ephraim Manlun, 20, worked in an international call center in Delhi for the past two years, where he earned some money as a young single man, honed his skills in English and learned much about the wider world. Arriving with his parents and two sisters in the first group of renewed aliyah for the Bnei Menashe, he is anxious to improve his Hebrew and serve in the IDF.

“I’ve already interviewed with the recruiters and I think the army discipline will do me good”, said Ephraim. Asked if he were worried about having to go into combat, he assured: “God is with me, so why should I be afraid.”

His father, Tzafania, was a soldier in the Indian army and spent seven years fighting against radical Muslim militias in the Kashmir region along the disputed frontier with Pakistan. He worked as a photographer in recent years while awaiting the chance to make aliyah.

Ephraim's mother, Hadassah, was a primary teacher in the local village school back in the Manipur province. She said she is willing to do whatever it takes to finish raising her family in Israel.

His sisters, Yishka (15 years old) and Naomi (12), had a hard time saying goodbye to friends back in India, but they are excited about making new friends in Israel and becoming part of the youth culture here.

“All our hopes and dreams are here now!” added Ephraim. “And I am happy that we are the first members of our extended family to arrive in Israel. The others are coming, though. They are coming!”

The Houkholet Family

Yishai Houkhloet, 28, came with his wife, Yehudit, and three small children (Leah, Avner and Raziel), as well as his parents Joshi (in his 70s) and Esther (in her 60s), plus an aunt. Yishai was a security guard in India to watch a video report about the Bnei Menashe, go to: www.iceusa.org/lost-tribe

www.iceusa.org/lost-tribe
and probably cannot do that. Still, we have now arrived and it is my son who will one day serve in the IDF.”

He also spoke of their spiritual longings, insisting, “we want to learn the Torah and fulfil the positive mitzvot (good deeds)”.

Yishai already has a brother and a sister living in Israel, in the community of Kiryat Arba near Hebron. But his family will likely be settled in the Galilee. “Wherever they send us to live, we will be happy”, he assured. “It is very sweet to be here!” Like all the other Bnei Menashe families arriving in Israel, Yishai said the first thing his family wanted to do is to visit the Western Wall.

“We just want to go to the Kotel to cry and pray. Then our journey will truly be over.”

Partner with us
Please join us in helping more Jews come home to Israel.

You may designate your gift to support the Aliyah Operations of the ICEJ by donating at:
www.icejusa.org/donate/bnei-menashe
JANUARY
Holocaust Remembrance
The year 2012 kicked off with a unique ICEJ gathering in Jerusalem in January marking the 70th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference – the infamous meeting of senior Nazi officials to plot the “Final Solution of the Jewish Question”. The ICEJ hosted a delegation of 70 prominent German and Austrian Christian leaders who came for a special repentance and wreath-laying ceremony at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial and Museum.

APRIL
Combating Anti-Semitism
In April the ICEJ sponsored an in-depth, week-long seminar for Christian leaders at Yad Vashem to address the dangers of anti-Semitism. Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, the ICEJ's historic partnership with this revered institution, assists in its mission of preserving the memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Nazi Holocaust and teaching its universal lessons to future generations.

MAY
Jerusalem Day
The ICEJ hosted a Jerusalem Day reception in May which drew a wide array of Israeli officials and Jewish and Christian leaders. The annual gathering of the ICEJ’s national directors also took place in May in the beautiful city of Prague. The four-day conference drew 90 representatives from 35 nations.

FEBRUARY
ICEJ Report debuts on Daystar
After taking steps in recent years to expand our video production capabilities, the ICEJ was invited in February to become a partner in “Israel Now News”, a weekly half-hour show about Israel broadcast by the popular Daystar television network – today the world’s largest Christian TV channel. Now, millions of viewers from around the world can tune in each week to the ICEJ Report, a weekly feature on the Christian Embassy.

MARCH
ICEJ briefing in Knesset
Through our Isaiah 62 Prayer campaign and other initiatives, the ICEJ has been encouraging the revival now spreading in Arab/Muslim lands, while also standing up for Christians persecuted under Islam. In March, we visited the Sheba Medical Center to connect with Umar Mulinde, a Ugandan pastor being treated for acid burns inflicted by radical Muslims because he was preaching the Gospel and teaching love for Israel. Later in June, we arranged for Mulinde and ICEJ-Senegal national director Dr. Maiga Abdou to present a special briefing in the Knesset on the violent Islamist campaign against Christians in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, we published a booklet with Pastor Mulinde’s powerful testimony entitled “Facing Persecution”.

JUNE
ICEJ Street in Haifa
In June, the city of Haifa recognised the ICEJ for funding Israel’s largest assisted-living facility for Holocaust survivors by naming the street where it is located the “Christian Embassy Center”. Over the past two years, the Christian Embassy has funded an expansion of the Haifa Home to now accommodate over 100 impoverished Holocaust survivors. Meanwhile, ICEJ-Brazil hosted a rally that drew over 100,000 Christians to stand and pray for Israel.
JULY

Arise Summer Tour
The ICEJ’s Arise young adults program hosted its annual summer tour, which took part in “hands on” projects at an immigrant absorption center, a food bank and at the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors. The tour came a month after Arise organised the first “477 Quest”, a 477-kilometer bike trek from Metulla to Eilat to raise funds for Israel’s disabled sports center at Ramat Gan.

OCTOBER

Feast 2012
The ICEJ’s Feast of Tabernacles celebration in October was marked by a powerful opening night at Ein Gedi, a blessed Communion service at the Garden Tomb, and a special evening when pro-Israel parliamentarians from 17 different nations took to our stage in Jerusalem to express their support for Israel. Thousands of Christians from around the world gathered to show their support for Israel during the Jerusalem March.

SEPTEMBER

AID Outreaches
In September, the ICEJ AID program began sponsoring 12 football teams in a special soccer league established for Ethiopian Jewish youths in Israel, purchasing custom-made jerseys as well as shoes for the players. Other AID projects this year included funding for a center for disabled Arab children near Bethlehem and new housing for orphaned Jewish children in the Upper Galilee. ICEJ AID also funded a center in Tel Aviv to minister to abused women trapped in poverty, prostitution and human trafficking.

NOVEMBER

Relief under Fire
In November an escalation in Hamas rocket attacks from Gaza brought half of Israel under fire. The ICEJ’s rapid response included providing food, clothing, first aid kits, blankets, toiletries and shelter to those affected by the hostilities while helping elderly Holocaust survivors relocate to safe housing in Haifa and Netanya.

AUGUST

Mentoring New Immigrants
In August, an ICEJ AID team visited with Jewish immigrant families we are helping adjust to their new lives in Israel. Besides our extensive aliyah operations over recent decades, the ICEJ also has funded a successful mentoring program for new immigrants struggling to get established in the land.

DECEMBER

Bringing the Exiles Home
In December, the ICEJ sponsored the first flight of renewed aliyah among India’s Bnei Menashe community. We will be covering more Bnei Menashe flights in coming months as part of our continuing efforts to bring home Jews from centuries of exile. Over recent decades, the ICEJ has helped more than 115,000 Jewish people come home to Israel.
During the recent Israel-Hamas rocket war, many Israeli families residing near the Gaza border grew weary of constantly huddling in bomb shelters and fled north for safety. Some moved in with relatives or checked into hotels. But many large, poor families in southern Israel did not have those options. So government officials and private charities offered a temporary measure of relief, such as day trips for children to the Jerusalem zoo.

During the fighting, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem activated its “Israel in Crisis Fund” to sponsor a number of relief efforts for besieged families in southern Israel. One of the more unusual emergency aid projects undertaken by the ICEJ involved a surprising source of relief – Druze communities in the Galilee providing comfort and shelter to Jewish families from the South.

ICEJ AID

REPAYING KINDNESS FOR KINDNESS

THE TOUCHING STORY OF DRUZE HELPING JEWS

BY ESTERA WIEJA
During the Second Lebanon War in 2006, when the northern half of Israel was under bombardment from Hezbollah in Lebanon, Jewish residents of southern Israel opened their homes to beleaguered families in the North, many of whom were Druze. Now it was time to return the favour.

Mofied Amar, chairman of a Druze communal organisation in Horfesh, remembered the help he had received back then and took the initiative to offer refuge to needy Jewish families under relentless rocket fire from Gaza. Amar felt it was a chance to repay kindness with kindness.

“As Druze, we saw that it was important to take in the Jewish families from the South that were in need”, he explained.

So Amar and other Druze leaders contacted the city of Ashdod to offer assistance to poorer families without safe rooms.

“I personally got in touch with the mayor of Ashdod and told him of our desire to host a group of families of up to two busloads, families with children, for three days”, Amar said. “Together with other members of our organisation and volunteers from our community, we prepared a program for them.”

Located just 23 miles from Gaza, Ashdod was on constant alert during Operation Pillar of Cloud. Schools and businesses were closed, and just leaving the house to buy a few groceries was extremely risky. So local social workers quickly selected 23 families – 77 individuals – who were put on buses and transported to the Galilee.

The mother of one of those families is Sharon, who lives with her partner and their three children in a small apartment in Ashdod. There are no bomb shelters or safe rooms in their building, so when the first siren sounded in mid-November, they simply ran to the lower level of the staircase.

“My three-year-old daughter would panic every time she heard the siren or any other similar sound”, Sharon recently recounted. “To this day she refuses to be alone anywhere, even in her own room while I’m in the kitchen.”

Their 9-year-old son started wetting his bed again. He moved his mattress to the living room, so he could be closer to the staircase at night. Thus the whole family was relieved to be on a bus for the Galilee, courtesy of the Druze.

“We have never experienced such wonderful hospitality”, Sharon said of her hosts in the Druze village of Peqi’in. “I grew up in the North, and I knew of the Druze in our country, but I never had a chance to get to know them. I didn’t expect this much love and care from them. It was incredible!”

The 23 families included both Orthodox and non-religious Jews from different neighbourhoods in Ashdod. In ordinary circumstances it is very unlikely they would ever come together, but in this instance they enjoyed each other’s company.

The residents of Peqi’in and surrounding villages prepared in advance to welcome their guests in distress. As soon as the Ashdod families arrived, they were all greeted with a rose and taken to restaurants that even offered kosher food. Then they were brought to a pleasant hotel, where they could enjoy a peaceful night, with no sounds of alarms.

During their stay in the Galilee, the families from Ashdod toured the region, relaxed in olive orchards and visited national parks. They could finally exhale for a few days.

While in Peqi’in, Sharon’s son became very independent, unafraid to leave his mother’s side in order to play with the local Druze children. Sharon was astonished.

“It is so beautiful here, and so peaceful”, she said. “My children have never seen this part of Israel, and I don’t know if I would ever be able to bring them here. This was like a dream!”

“We would host another group if that would have been needed”, Amar assured. “But it’s our hope that when we do these things in the future we can do it in peace and quiet.”

Amar was able to cover the costs for housing, feeding and entertaining the Ashdod families thanks to a generous donation from the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

The ICEJ now has to replenish our “Israel in Crisis Fund”, to be ready for the next emergency in Israel. Please consider making a gift today through ICEJ AID at:

www.icejusa.org/relief-israelis-under-fire
A week before Christmas, the streets of Bethlehem were surprisingly quiet. But as we reached the First Baptist Church in Bethlehem that bright Sunday morning, inside the church was bustling. Greeted by Pastor Naim Khoury, we found the church auditorium filled with children’s laughter and cheery Christmas music.

Now the largest Evangelical church in the Palestinian areas, Pastor Khoury started the congregation over thirty years ago, first in a one bedroom apartment and a few years later in a beautiful church building that can seat 400 people. Today, it also has several rooms for Sunday school, a small basketball court and a playground.

Sunday morning is when the children come together to study the Bible. Most adults come to worship on Sunday afternoon, since it is a work day in Bethlehem. But this morning the children are accompanied not only by their Sunday school teachers, but also by the pastors and many parents – as it is time for Christmas celebrations!

For several years now, the Christian Embassy has partnered with the First Baptist Church of Bethlehem to bring smiles to these children’s faces. The city, best known as the birthplace of Jesus, is not an easy place to live. Since over 80% of the city’s population is now Muslim, the followers of Jesus do not have much influence anymore. Many of the Arab Christians do not have jobs, yet they do not lose hope.

“We feel blessed to see how God is taking care of us,” assured Pastor Khoury. “We are grateful to the Christians from around the world who help us. This is especially needed in winter time.” Several ICEJ staff from Jerusalem joined church members in distributing Christmas gifts to the children. The gift packages included warm sweatshirts, trousers, packs of socks and other winter clothing. The ICEJ purchased the goods in appropriate sizes for all the children thanks to an inventory done in advance by the Sunday school teachers.

Pastor Khoury’s ministry has been steadily growing and today is active also in the Old City of Jerusalem and in Jericho. The ICEJ sponsored Christmas gifts for children in these fellowships as well. Altogether, about 280 Christian Arab children were blessed in the Christmas distribution through First Baptist Church.

Thanks to our faithful donors worldwide, many Christian Arab children now have warm clothes for the winter. Please give to ICEJ AID to help us meet more needs like this. Donate at: www.icejusa.org/relief-work

DISTRIBUTING Christmas gifts to the children.

MAKING CHRISTMAS MORE SPECIAL IN BETHLEHEM

Thanks to our faithful donors worldwide, many Christian Arab children now have warm clothes for the winter.

BY ESTERA WIEJA
In early December, ICEJ staff members celebrated the Jewish festival of Hanukkah with Holocaust survivors in the city of Pardes Hanna, just south of Haifa.

Some 40 survivors, most of them widowed, came together to celebrate the holiday with music, songs and the popular Hanukkah tradition of suvganiyot – jelly-filled donuts. Israeli high school students who take part in a special survivor adoption program of ICEJ AID were also on hand to enjoy the evening.

During the celebration, Holocaust survivors paired off with the young visitors to light candles on the Hanukkah menorah. Yudit Setz from ICEJ AID helped a proud and smiling Benjamin to light the first candle. When it came time for the singing of Hanukkah songs, Benjamin gladly joined in – he finds it increasingly hard to function in the present but he remembered every word from the songs of his past.

Benjamin is one of the Holocaust survivors from all across Israel who regularly receive visits by high school students through a special adoption program of ICEJ AID, which also pays visits to the aging survivors from time to time. The ICEJ program makes sure that the apartments of adoptees are painted and provides the young visitors with transport to the survivors' homes. The Israeli students involved in the visitation program are normally preparing for their three years of military service in the IDF. Every other week the youngsters come for a visit and deliver food and basic household items, also provided by ICEJ AID.

Like Benjamin, many of the adopted survivors live alone, with no one to visit them outside the adoption program, so they really enjoy the visits.

“When they know that we are coming, they sit and wait the whole day for us”, explained Marty, a student who recently made aliyah with his family from the United States. “We visit them in a small group, sing and talk with them, listen to their stories and they show us their pictures.”

Even before the Hanukkah celebration started, the young men were busy visiting those Holocaust survivors who are no longer able to leave their homes.

“It makes us feel good because when we leave they are still smiling and singing”, said Marty. He and the other students sang and danced and juggled, while others played the guitar and violin. Cheered up by the visits, the survivors tapped their toes and clapped in time.

“We want to celebrate life and help those who still live”, explained Rivka, the local coordinator for the visitation program. “Yudit especially came from Jerusalem to celebrate with us. I would like to thank the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem heartily for the good cooperation and all the support.”

“It makes us feel good because when we leave they are still smiling and singing”
YAD VASHEM'S TRAVELLING EXHIBITIONS SEEK TO REACH AS LARGE AN AUDIENCE AS POSSIBLE TO TEACH ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

YAD VASHEM EXHIBIT TOURS FINLAND

DR. SUSANNA KOKKONEN  DIRECTOR, CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF YAD VASHEM
Since October 2006, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has been working in partnership with Yad Vashem to enable this revered institution to take its message against genocide and intolerance to the wider Christian world. Yad Vashem has benefited greatly from the ICEJ’s extensive connections with churches and Christian leaders internationally.

Many new projects have been initiated since the early days of this partnership. Although some one million people visit its Holocaust memorial and museum in Jerusalem each year, Yad Vashem also aims to take its moving exhibitions to a more global audience. Recently such an exhibition was opened in Finland, with the assistance of the ICEJ’s Finnish branch.

Yad Vashem’s travelling exhibitions seek to reach as large an audience as possible to teach about the Holocaust and its many universal lessons. Yad Vashem has decades of experience in this field and its travelling exhibitions have been displayed around the world, including at the United Nations headquarters in New York and the European Parliament in Brussels.

In November, one of the most moving of these exhibitions, “No Child’s Play”, opened in Helsinki in memory of the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust. This exhibition tells a powerful story of survival as Jewish children struggle to hold on to life. It describes their attempts to maintain their youth by creating for themselves a different reality from that which surrounded them.

A generous donation from Israel Ystävyystoimikunta, an umbrella of several pro-Israel Christian ministries in Finland, enabled the exhibition to be put on display. Pastor John Remes, the group’s chairman as well as co-chairman of ICEJ-Finland, helped coordinate the various practical aspects of the sizable project.

The exhibition opened in Helsinki on November 8, to mark the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the infamous Nazi pogrom known as the “Night of the Broken Glass”. The opening was attended by the Ambassador of Israel to Finland Dan Ashbel (pictured at right with Dr. Susanna Kokkonen), as well as Finnish MP Jouko Jääskeläinen, chairman of the parliamentary Israel friendship group.

Following the opening, a full-day seminar was held on anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, and current Middle Eastern issues, attracting a crowd of hundreds. Holocaust scholar Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld from the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs gave a keynote lecture on resurgent anti-Semitism in Nordic countries. Two Holocaust survivors also gave their testimonies at the closing of the day.

The "No Child’s Play" exhibition is now touring a number of venues around Finland and has gained nationwide publicity. Churches across Finland have also hosted related teaching events on the exhibit and the Holocaust.

Yad Vashem houses important segments of Jewish history, including documents, pictures, art and even children’s toys, such as dolls. The existence of these mementos of the Holocaust is a testimony to truth. But Yad Vashem needs your help to preserve this history and to defend the values we share.

Your support will enable Yad Vashem to truly realise its motto: Remembering the Past, Shaping the Future.

To support the work of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, donate today at:

www.icejusa.org/yadvashem
The world in 2013

We are living in truly exciting times! Powerful global shifts are occurring which will change our world for decades to come.
The former powerhouse of the European Union is struggling even for survival. Entire nations are endangered with bankruptcy, while in parallel Christianity is in decline in our post-Christian Western societies. There are also serious economic struggles in the United States, even while we see nations like China and India on the rise. The Middle East is experiencing major turmoil. For many Christians the future looks bleak.

THE FUTURE CHURCH

However, positive and exciting developments are taking place which might escape our attention since they are taking place outside the Western world. For Christians in the West, secularism and Islam seem to be taking over on all fronts. But they should look to the Southern hemisphere, which has become the new vanguard for Christianity.

American researcher Prof. Philip Jenkins, in his book “The next Christendom”, documents an unprecedented religious revolution which is taking place. While Europe is losing its Christian identity and churches are shrinking, in the global South (Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia) Christianity is alive and growing.

In Africa, Christianity more than tripled, from 140 million in 1970 to 490 million in 2010. If the recent growth continues, by 2050 Africa will be home to more than 1 billion Christians. While Europe today remains the home to the most Christians (some 590 million), it will be overtaken in the coming years by Latin America and Africa.

What unites all these new expressions of Christianity is simple faith in the Bible and the expectation of God moving in supernatural ways. According to Prof. Jenkins, the fastest growing stream of Christianity is the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement. What started in 1906 as a small revival has turned today into a global movement which has grown to more than 700 million believers, he concludes. Jenkins predicts that if this dynamic growth continues, we will see in the next few decades the number of Pentecostals and Charismatics swell to more than one billion.

He also foresees a new reformation of Christianity where the centers of world Christendom will not lay anymore in Geneva, London or Rome, but in places like Kampala, Sao Paolo or Manila. Even in Indonesia, the largest Muslim nation in terms of population, the Church is experiencing an ongoing revival for over thirty years now.

Interestingly, liberal theologies hardly exist in these regions, and neither does Replacement theology. According to Jenkins, while liberal Protestantism never truly represented mainstream Christianity, it will rapidly lose what significance it has had in coming decades.

In our own travels as ICEJ representatives, we have witnessed and experienced this changing dynamic. We see that revived churches of the South not only share a simple trust in the Word of God, they are also united in a deep love and passion for Israel and the Jews. When I asked some years ago a leader of one of China’s underground churches where their love for Israel comes from, he replied: “We just read the Bible.” It is that simple.

All of this carries the potential for major political changes in coming decades. In some countries, revived Christianity already constitutes a significant portion of the population. Sooner or later, this will translate into political influence. Already last year, we saw Nigeria refuse to vote automatically with the Palestinians on statehood in the UN Security Council due to Christian influence on its government. Other nations may soon follow this trend.

If you live today in Europe or elsewhere in the “Global North”, I want to encourage you with the words of Jesus: “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’. Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!” (John 4:35)

Too often as Western Christians, we have become overly pessimistic and even fatalistic about the
future. If God can move mightily in Africa, China and Brazil, then there is also hope for France, Germany and Italy. We are living in times of harvest! Don’t say your country is not ready for harvest yet. The real question is: Are you ready for harvest?

THE FUTURE OF THE ARAB WORLD

The events which led to the Arab uprisings caught even the sharpest intelligence agencies by surprise. While progressive, freedom-seeking elements sparked the on-going revolutions, it quickly became clear that many in the streets were not thirsting for Western-style democracy but a stricter form Islam. The Egyptian people just voted for the adoption of a constitution rooted in Islamic shari’a law. It is getting more difficult for Arab Christians to stay and many are seeking refuge in Western countries.

In Psalms 18, David called upon God in great distress and the Lord came down from heaven and intervened, yet in a rather unusual manner: “[H]e came down with darkness under His feet. And He rode upon a cherub... He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.” (Psalm 18:9-11)

The end of the story, of course, is salvation and redemption: “He delivered me from my strong enemy...” (Psalm 18:16f). But as God arrived for rescue, He came “with darkness under His feet” and He made “darkness His secret place”.

You might have experienced it yourself. When God comes to deliver, at times it can seem even darker for a short while. Often, this is true for entire nations.

China, which is experiencing a huge revival today, is a good example. By 1948, Christianity in China was making significant progress. Close to one million believers were found in China and the hope and prayers were that this growth would continue. But then came the Communist revolution and all Western missionaries were expelled. For a while, it looked like the end of Christianity in China. The Church went through an extreme time of persecution and hardship. But in the midst of this darkness, revival broke out and just a few years ago the Chinese government set the official number of Christians in China at more than 100 million.

The same is true for Iran today. When the Ayatollahs took over in the late 1970s, it appeared like a thick cloud of darkness was settling upon ancient Persia. Persecution set in and pastors were imprisoned and even executed. But then the churches started to grow. From a few hundred believers, the Church grew to several million today. In fact, Iran at present is experiencing the fastest church growth in the world. Just recently, we received a report from pastors in Iran that 5,000 people are being baptised each month in Tehran alone.
Leaders in Israel Year's reception for clerical
PErES at his annual New
PrESIDENT SHIMON Peres opened with an astonishing statement.

He was referring to the many historic churches in the Holy Land, but mentioned in particular the relationship with the Vatican. Certainly, there has been progress with these churches but the biggest development is Israel’s outreach to the growing Evangelical movement. Many Israeli leaders now recognise the potential of this relationship. That a caucus was formed in the Knesset just to engage with Evangelical Christians speaks volumes.

At the same time, Israel will continue to develop as a hi-tech innovator and a beacon of democracy in the midst of a troubled region. The world chairman of the Jewish Agency, Eliezer “Moodi” Sandberg, just recently shared with me his hope for Israel’s future.

“The first waves of Aliyah were motivated by strong Zionist feelings. Part of the future of immigration will be that Jews will decide to move to Israel because they can be part of a great success story in science and hi-tech”, he said.

**“Never before were Jewish-Christian relations better than today”**

What throws a shadow on all this is the still unresolved conflict with the Palestinians. Here, a new and fresh approach is needed which indeed can bring peace for the region. Again, it was President Peres who made an interesting point at the New Year’s reception.

“Our nation is not divided into people who want peace and those who don’t want peace. But it is divided in those who believe peace is possible and those who don’t believe it is possible”, he noted.

As Christians, we need to be committed to peace. “Blessed are the peacemakers”, Jesus proclaimed. Yet true peace will only come when hearts have been transformed. Therefore, what is needed most is an outpouring of God’s Spirit of Grace and Supplication on the people of Israel. That’s why our prayers are so important today.

**THE ICEJ IN 2013**

In Jerusalem, the ICEJ staff started out the new year once again with an intensive time of prayer and fasting. We recognise that if God does not build the house, our work is in vain. God filled us with new expectations for what He will do through us in 2013. Prayer will surely be an important part of our work, and we expect more churches from around the world to join with us in our Isaiah 62 Prayer Campaign.

Another area of ministry which we expect to become more involved in is Israel’s education sector. Just in the past few months, exciting doors have opened for us and we sense that this is an area where we are called to increase our engagement in future.

In the past year, God opened new doors for us to broadcast our message over global satellite TV. On the Daystar channel, we are reaching an audience of millions three times a week with our “ICEJ Report”. We expect this work to expand further, as will our other new media outlets.

As always, we are fully committed to serve the needy and underprivileged in Israel. This coming year, we are preparing for further expansion of our Home for Holocaust survivors in Haifa and to see that the monthly needs of current residents are met. In spite of all the economic growth in Israel, there is still a large part of the population living in poverty.

I truly believe that 2013 will be a year of challenges but also one of great blessings. My prayer is that God would allow us to carry out great exploits for Him and for His glory. Much is still to be done but His resources are limitless. Remember, we serve a Lord who declared about Himself: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Matthew 28:18)

This means that if He is with us, who can be against us! Let us lift up our heads and do the work of the Lord together!

We also are planning for another exciting Feast of Tabernacles celebration this year. Last October’s gathering was characterised by much prayer and a strong presence of God. We expect that as well this fall, along with new and exciting events that will bless our pilgrims greatly. The Feast theme of “Harvest” is so timely, as it reflects what is happening around the world.
During my recent visit to India in December, we were able to share our timely message concerning God’s plans for Israel in five different states within eight days, touching many lives in this colourful and vast country of over 1.2 billion people.

Just a few hours after my arrival from Jerusalem to the city of Mumbai, we had the first ICEJ meeting together with our new ICEJ-India National Director, Meka Padma Rao, who is also warmly known as “Pastor Danny”.

The meeting took place in a church planted by Pastor Robin Almeida, whose life story is amazing in itself as a powerful proof of the reality of Jesus of Nazareth as the resurrected Lord and Saviour! Pastor Almeida was part of the mafia in India before the Lord found him and showed him mercy and grace. Now, as a completely changed man, he in turn is ministering and showing mercy and love towards the people in Mumbai – India’s largest city and the financial capital of the nation.

Currently at about 500 members, his young local church is growing as he reaches out to the hurting and needy where they are through street ministry as well as using the media and television. He visits Israel several times every year and loves God’s chosen people! It was a great joy and a privilege to share our message with his congregation and to experience the openness and readiness from their part to work and partner together with ICEJ for the good of the people of Israel!

The following day we ministered in the city of Bangalore, the technological hub, located in the southern state of Karnataka. Our local representative there, Marcus Daniel, was all ready at the Bangalore Airport to receive us and take us into the city. This was truly the timing of the Lord for us, since the New Life Fellowship Church was on a three-day-fasting right when we arrived there.

In the afternoon we had a meeting about the ICEJ’s ministry with pastors and leaders overseeing the dozen local churches that are all part of the New Life Fellowship in Bangalore. The public night service was then reserved by the senior minister, Pastor Jacob, for us to share our message with the congregation and to lead these praying people to intercede for Israel and for the nations surrounding her. And pray we did! An exceptionally strong spirit of prayer and intercession fell upon us as we prayed for an extended time with targeted and specific prayers on behalf of the people of Israel, the leadership of the
NEW DOORS IN PANAMA

BY JUHA KETOLA

Rev. Larry Booth, an ICEJ-USA Board member and pastor of Our Father’s House in Florida, recently visited Panama to hold a series of meetings on the biblical basis for standing with Israel. The timing of the five-day conference proved critical, as the United Nations was considering approval of a Palestinian state that same week, and Panama was the lone Latin American state to oppose the move.

With the assistance of Marco Zavallos, ICEJ-Panama National Director, Larry’s visit was hosted by Pastors Jose Luis and Yeni Rodriguez. In preparation for this time of ministry, he had developed an in-depth visual presentation with 168 slides based on the book “Understanding Israel” authored by former ICEJ executive director Malcolm Hedding. He now hopes it will serve as a ministry tool for reaching others in the wider Spanish-speaking world.

“There is a genuine love for Israel among many of the Panamanian pastors and church leaders”, Larry reported after the trip. “The response to the preaching of the Word was glorious, as the hunger levels were obvious among the leaders and the people.”

Larry also hopes the new teaching tool he developed will help the ICEJ open the vast door of opportunity in Spanish-speaking countries in the days ahead.

“They were thrilled beyond measure and wanted to know what other resources we had that could help the churches inform their people about Israel”, he stated.
The Bible tells us that we as Christians have been given different kinds of gifts. While some have received the gift of prophecy, others have the gift of healing. Marcos Tavares is truly blessed with spiritual gifts as well as physical ones – especially the gift of playing football. Marcos is a professional football player, as well as a pastor, a husband, and a father of five children. In addition, he now is slated to become the National Director of ICEJ-Slovenia.

His story begins in 1984 when he was born in the city of Porto Alegre, in southern Brazil. As with most Brazilian youngsters, Marcos grew up playing football and before he knew it he was playing on the Brazilian national youth team for players under 15 years old.

At the age of 19 he met his wife, Letitia, and together they moved to Malaysia, where he landed a contract for a local football club. It was in this southeast Asian nation – where the majority of the population is Muslim – that Marcos and his wife came to faith in Jesus. “It all came about thanks to a Brazilian couple from the same city as me’, recounts Marcos, who was 21 at the time. “They shared the gospel every day, and prayed for us, and it was in this way that I came to believe in Jesus. I and my wife later were baptised back in Brazil, and in May of 2011 both of us were consecrated as pastors by Apostle Antonio Melo of Portugal. So for me and my wife, we have had the same spiritual journey all the way through – it is amazing!”

Since 2008, Marcos and his family have been living in Slovenia, where he serves as captain of the club NK Maribor, champions of the Slovenian football league. Since he started to play for the team, he has won numerous accolades, including the most valuable player and top scorer awards for not only his club but the entire national league, along with the best foreign sportsman in Slovenia.

“It’s been a big blessing! This season I am already in the first position with ten goals, and I hope I will be the best scorer again”, he recently explained. “We are now in the UEFA Europa League and are playing our last game against Lazio. We can’t advance but at the same time we are the only team in Slovenia playing in the Europa League.” In addition to a successful sports career, he and his wife also are overseeing the international fellowship Kairos Slovenia, with several dozen members.

“Every day, our congregation is growing. Visitors are coming all the time. The Slovenian players are not often coming to church, but when the Brazilian players on clubs from across Europe come to Slovenia, they visit my church”, said Marcos. “Now I have another Brazilian on my team who has accepted Jesus. God is making sure to catch all Brazilian players who come to my team. Several players from Brazil have already accepted Jesus, along with a Croatian player.”

“Our church is also engaged in humanitarian activities, and outreach where we teach Spanish and English classes and collect clothes for poor people”, Marcos continued. Today, Marcos is committed to living for Jesus while pursuing excellence on the football field. “I am a football player and a minister of the Gospel. God chose football so that I would be able to provide for my family, but the main mission is to share the good news.” When he moved to Slovenia, Marcos asked the Lord how to share his faith with other players and God gave him a vision to write “Jesus is the way” under his club shirt. “So I wrote it and every time I score a goal, I show them the t-shirt. Everyone has now recognised this, including the media, and when they see me on the street they scream, ‘Jesus is the way! Jesus is the way!’”
Marcos has also become very clear and open about his support for Israel.

“Jesus was born in Israel, he died in Israel, was resurrected in Israel, and one day will come back to Israel,” he stated. “So I am teaching the members of our church about the importance of Israel and how to pray for, love and support the land of the prophets.”

In early 2013, Marcos will be formally installed as the national director of the new branch of ICEJ-Slovenia, a position that he is eager to assume. His love for Israel and the Jewish people has come from a visit to the Holy Land as well as through his pastoral overseers, Antonio and Carla Melo, the long-time national directors of ICEJ-Portugal. “The connection with the ICEJ is a gift from God. For me, this is a big honour! It is God’s way for our life and a true miracle.”

Marcos has started to organise for the upcoming visit of Rev. Juha Ketola, the ICEJ’s International Director, to officially launch the Slovenian branch.

“We are currently inviting pastors from all over Slovenia to attend so that they can learn more about the dangers of anti-Semitic theologies, the importance Israel holds in the Bible, and that the Jews remain the chosen people of God”, Marcos said.

In December, an ICEJ delegation from Jerusalem embarked on an eight day ministry trip to Bolivia, where our national branch under the direction of Apostle Alberto Magno Salas is prospering despite the country’s struggling economy and turning back towards ancient Inca beliefs.

The ministry team consisted of Ray Ramirez, the ICEJ Music and Creative Director, and Jani Salokangas, International Director for our Arise young adults program. Apostle Alberto hosted them during the week of Hanukkah for a special time of teaching and worship ministry at his thriving church of 9,000 members high in the Andes Mountains. The services were packed each night with eager worshippers surrendering themselves to God’s presence.

The celebrations culminated with an outdoor rally of 15,000 people in a sports stadium. The evening focused on prayer for Israel and a message on the Jewish nation’s central role in God’s redemptive plan for the world.

God is moving in Bolivia despite many challenges and widespread poverty. The mountainous country is one of the poorest in the world and currently is led by a president who is trying to bring back ancient Inca religions. Yet the Evangelical body is growing and today nearly one-quarter of the nation are born-again Christians, many with a heart for Israel. The ICEJ-Bolivia branch has been able to bring large groups to our annual Feast of Tabernacles gathering in Jerusalem over recent years and more than 200 Bolivian pilgrims are expected in September 2013.
Prayer Campaign

Every Wednesday of 2013 will be a special day of prayer for Israel.

Isaiah 62

Rev. Juha Ketola
ICEJ International Director

Join Us

Isaiah 62 Global Prayer Campaign
At the start of 2011, the Lord spoke to the Christian Embassy leadership in Jerusalem impressing on our hearts to launch a global prayer campaign which would set aside specific times for offering directed prayers for Israel, the surrounding nations and the needs of our own ministry.

In the two years since, this God-breathed “Isaiah 62” prayer initiative has been joined by God’s servants all around the globe, drawing them regularly to their knees in prayer – from the South Pacific to Latin America, North America, Asia, Africa and Europe. Local churches, fellowships and prayer groups in many different countries have joined us as we have focused together in our collective prayers for Israel and the region.

The Holy Spirit no doubt is calling you and your church to do the same, too!

For two years now we have set apart every Wednesday of each month for increased prayer time and one Wednesday per month has also been a day of fasting. This Isaiah 62 Prayer Campaign will continue into the coming year of 2013. Every Wednesday will be a special day of prayer for Israel, the region and our ministry. Every first Wednesday of the month will also be a day of fasting! Join us!

You can be part of this worldwide intercessory prayer and fasting campaign by simply downloading the latest Prayer Guide from our website at: www.icejusa.org/isaiah62.

Every month you will find new prayer points guiding you on what to pray and a short exhortation on prayer. These will inspire and encourage you to yield yourself to the Lord Jesus and to be one with Him in prayer and intercession. Remember, Jesus ever lives to pray and His Spirit lives in us, we have in us this constant yearning to be with God our Father, to fellowship and communicate with Him. His life in us triggers this! All we have to do is to yield to this God-given, grace-filled and loving prompting that calls us to spend time with our heavenly Father!

Join us now and yield to this eternal life of God in Jesus through prayer and intercession under the global Isaiah 62 prayer initiative!

Since Jesus on His throne in heaven lives to pray, and His Spirit lives in us, we have in us this constant yearning to be with God our Father, to fellowship and communicate with Him. His life in us triggers this! All we have to do is to yield to this God-given, grace-filled and loving prompting that calls us to spend time with our heavenly Father!

I came to faith in Malaga, Spain at the age of 20. Earlier, my heart had become heavy and weary of constant, futile searching for purpose and meaning in life. I had been traveling and hitchhiking in Europe trying to fill the emptiness in my life with new experiences, new countries, new thoughts, new people – but had become tired. And then, finally, I was ready to open my heart to the love of Jesus.

When He came in to my heart and life that day, my soul was flooded with such peace and love that I had never, ever felt anywhere or in any circumstance. And all this was inside my being, in my spirit! I was completely and totally forgiven of my sins, I had found rest from my all-consuming search and even more than that, I now was vibrantly connected – from within – to God and His eternal purposes!

From the very beginning, this new life of God within drew me towards Him. I had a need that arose from inside me to fellowship and be with my God. A life of prayer had been instilled in me! As a result, my new Christian life was filled with prayer meetings and even all-night prayers together with other spiritually thirsty young men and women like myself. And since those early days, I have learned and experienced it to be really true that the life of Jesus in us desires to express itself especially through prayer, even to the point where the apostle Paul says: “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Give Him no rest till He establishes And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth. (Isaiah 62:7)

- Become an active part in Israel’s restoration and join our global Isaiah 62 prayer campaign.
- Invite friends to join you once a month.
- If you are a Pastor please consider establishing a monthly Isaiah 62 prayer event in your church. Israel needs your prayers more than ever.

We would like to hear from you! Email: prayer@icejusa.org
Iran’s relentless demonization of Israel and its ongoing quest for nuclear weapons amounts to the gravest threat facing the Jewish people since the rise of Nazism some 70 years ago.

The growing Iranian nuclear threat against Israel has reached a critical stage. No one knows for sure whether Israel will respond by launching strikes against Iran’s nuclear facilities soon, as multiple media reports suggest. My sense is that we are sitting on a powder keg and even the smallest accident could set things off, but neither side is intentionally planning just yet to light the fuse.

Rather, Israeli leaders are still pursuing the “gunslinger strategy” – making a lot of commotion as if they’re ready to fire away in order to get the lethargic West to take action. This approach has produced tighter sanctions on Iran, but those measures have yet to slow Tehran’s advance towards nuclear capabilities. Only a clear threat of US military action might be able to halt Iran in its tracks, and this is what Israel is angling for at present.

Meanwhile, Iranian leaders have stepped up their direct verbal assault on Israel in order to make this appear more of an Iran-Israel conflict, so that the region’s Arab states will equate opposing Tehran with taking Israel’s side. They also hope their bellicose threats will deter Israeli and Western pre-emptive actions, and draw global anti-American sentiment into their corner.

This confrontation will likely keep building for many more months to come and could eventually force all nations to choose one side or the other. This is exactly what Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has been pushing for over recent years. And yet ironically, the Bible says God also wants to bring the nations into the “valley of decision” over Israel and a Jerusalem restored to Jewish hands (Joel 3:14).

The prospect of a thermonuclear device being detonated in Israel’s crowded coastal plain is frightening. But I do not believe it will actually ever happen. Somehow, Israel will be delivered from this peril! I can say this with confidence because I do not believe that God has re-gathered the Jewish people back to the Land of Israel for mass annihilation in some mad nuclear holocaust.

Instead, the Bible is clear that the restored nation of Israel is destined for redemption, not annihilation. There are just too many Scriptures which assure us of this.

Isaiah 60 and 62, for instance, promise that even amid “gross darkness” covering the earth, the glory of the Lord will arise upon this nation because His presence will abide here. Isaiah 2 and Micah 4 concur that even though many nations may conspire to destroy Israel, God will exalt this nation to a place of prominence in the earth, and “no one shall make them afraid”.

Zechariah 12 agrees that Israel is headed for glory and the nations for judgment. For the purpose of God is to use a restored Israel as a magnet to draw up the nations against Jerusalem as a means to judge them for their rebellion against Him.

In the process Israel may become imperilled, but she will never be annihilated, because “in that day the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem” (Zechariah 12:8).

Joel 3:16 also affirms this will be a time when, “the Lord will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel”.

In one overarching verse, Jeremiah 30:11, this is all put in proper perspective. “For I am with you,” says the Lord, “to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, and will not let you go altogether unpunished.”

That is, Israel does not totally escape the corrective hand of God but she will not share the fate of the other nations, who are finally brought low under His mighty power. And in fact, Isaiah 40:7 suggests that Israel may have already “received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins”.

Now all of these biblical promises are reassuring, but it does not mean that we can just sit back and wait for things to happen. Rather, Christians have a positive moral duty to stand up against evil plots like those being concocted by Ahmadinejad. The overwhelming Christian silence in the face of the Holocaust demands that we take genocidal threats against the Jewish people seriously in our day and speak out forcefully against them.

Israel will be delivered, but who knows whether that deliverance will come through our voice – whether in prayer to an Almighty God or in urging our leaders to make the right and just choice when it comes to Israel.
At the beginning of the 20th century, there was a large group of people that were hungry for God and many of them gathered in Los Angeles, California and ultimately experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in a unique way, in what became known as the Azusa Street Revival. That revival was marked by supernatural signs of miracles and healings and speaking in tongues, and gave way to the modern-day Pentecostal/Charismatic movement. It has since grown to over 600 million people who claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit worldwide.

Recently, there has been a movement [coming out of the 100th anniversary celebration of the Azusa Street Revival] which is called “Empowered 21”. In this movement, groups worldwide are teaching the new generation of young people and are helping connect with each other. This movement stretches across denominations so that more and more people can have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, and know Him as their Saviour and to be filled with the Holy Spirit worldwide.

Acts 1:8 says: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The Spirit of God is a member of the Trinity and part of God. He was and is and will always be God. He is a doer in the Trinity and accomplishes things, and we know Him best by what He does.

Throughout Scripture, the Holy Spirit is described by emblems or word pictures. One of them is the breath or wind of God, from the Hebrew word ruach. He is sometimes seen as a dove, like when Jesus was baptised. He is also sometimes seen as, or associated with water; living water that can be inside of us as believers. Or rain that pours out from heaven.

The Holy Spirit is described as a river always connected to the source, bringing life from the throne of God. He can also sometimes be described as anointing oil, when referred to anointing people for special tasks, as His priests and prophets and kings in the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit is our intercessor and helper.

The Holy Spirit is seen in scripture also as fire, the passion of God appearing in power on earth. He is called the Comforter. He convicts and reveals and ministers to us, and exalts Jesus. And there are many other names and symbols.

It is by the Spirit and through the Spirit that we conform our lives to the character and nature of Jesus. This is done by living in the Spirit and bearing the fruits of the Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit through us as believers, called the gifts of the Spirit, could be seen as the abilities of Jesus... All of this power is for the witness and works only to glorify the name of Jesus. For He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and no one comes to the Father but through Jesus. A life then that serves God and glorifies Him is one that is led by the Spirit of God.
**Women of the Word Study Tour**  
**April 17th- 26th, 2013**  
The Spring Women’s Study tour will include 10-days packed with touring and ministry; learning from great women of the Bible such as Anna, Ruth, Lydia, and encouraging us in our roles as daughters, sisters, wives, mothers, widows, women of prayer...

**Women of THE WORD**  
**PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM**  
**SPRING 2013**  
**$3594**

**Feast of Tabernacles**  
**PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM**  
**HARVEST**

**2013 Feast of Tabernacles Tour**  
**September 17th - 28th, 2013**  
Don’t just visit the land of the Bible, experience the God of the Bible at the annual Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. Includes a rich 11-day devotional journey through Israel led by Malcolm Hedding plus five nights of anointed worship & teaching in Jerusalem.

**Tour Israel with Malcolm Hedding • 11 Days • 4 Star Hotels • Feast Celebration • Flights from NY**

More information (615) 895-9830  
www.icejusa.org/feast
Taste of Tabernacles Conference
Friday, April 26 & Saturday, April 27, 2013

Hosted by: The Pentecostals of Cooper City
5201 South Flamingo Road, Cooper City, FL 33330

Friday, April 26: Evening Celebration: 7pm
Saturday, April 27: Workshops: 9am-1pm & Worship Concert w/ Paul Wilbur: 7pm

ADMISSION FREE

You don’t want to miss this opportunity to experience a taste of the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem here in South Florida. Ascend Up to Zion with us for glorious evenings of worship with the Feast worship team from Jerusalem and special musical guest, Paul Wilbur. Receive fresh insight from speakers and catch a heart for what God is doing in Israel and through the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

For information call: (615) 895-9830 or go online to: www.icejusa.org/events. For directions call: (954) 680-0710.