Embracing the Call
ICEJ National Directors Carry Fresh Vision from Prague

By Juha Ketola
ICEJ International Director

The annual gathering of the international network of ICEJ national directors took place in May in the beautiful city of Prague, hosted by the Czech Branch of the ICEJ. The four-day conference drew 90 representatives from 35 out of the Christian Embassy’s 70 established national branches worldwide.

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is a broad and unique expression of the worldwide body of Christ towards the Jewish people. This ministry reaches all continents of the world. Every year our national directors come together for an annual conference to hear from the Lord, to be strengthened in our vision, to sharpen our swords for the good of God’s chosen people, and to be encouraged in our calling.

Fresh Winds
Fresh winds of the Holy Spirit were blowing as the national directors and representatives gathered under the new leadership of ICEJ Executive Director Dr. Juergen Buehler and myself, as International Director, to receive teaching and prophetic encouragement concerning the modern-day restoration of Israel and her hope-filled future, as well as the ministry of ICEJ. From the start, the gathering experienced a strong presence of the Lord and a spirit of prayer in our times of worship, preaching and group discussion. And the Lord clearly spoke!

A Message of Hope
Dr. Buehler and other speakers brought a clear word that we must bear a message of hope even as troubled times envelope the earth. Many prophetic teachers today focus on the dark days ahead and project doom-and-gloom on Israel as well. But we were powerfully reminded that a glorious future awaits Israel and the Church, even though tough times do lie ahead. The Bible is clear that Israel is being gathered not for annihilation, but for redemption in her Messiah!

New Doors
About two years ago, we received a prophetic word that ten new branches would be opened for the Christian Embassy in the Arab/Islamic world. This incredible promise has started to come to pass before our eyes, as two ex-Muslims who today are pro-Israel Christian pastors were present in Prague to represent their countries. One of these brothers will also represent us in six other Muslim nations. So new doors are opening for the ICEJ in lands previously closed to our ministry. One of these brothers will also represent us in six other Muslim nations. So new doors are opening for the ICEJ in lands previously closed to our ministry. How delightful it was to listen to the Arabic language in songs and prayers in a gathering of ICEJ leaders.

New national directors and spokespersons were also commissioned for India, Thailand, Uganda and Italy. It is a new day and new doors are opening in many other countries not mentioned here. We can see everywhere a new interest, new possibilities and new signs of growth that will enlarge our ministry to bless Israel in greater measure. These are exciting times!

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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:
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The SPIRIT of GRACE and SUPPLICATION
FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2012

SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 4, 2012

ANGUS BUCHAN
BILLY WILSON
SUZETTE HATTINGH
As we approach another decisive moment in the history of this great nation, the election of the next American President, the ICEJ has felt led to call its US constituency to prayer according to the principles the Lord laid out for Solomon after the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem:

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (II Chronicles 7: 14)

This is a nation that is turning its heart away from God and attempting to shut God out of the halls of power. This is a nation that is embracing moral values against the teachings of God’s Word, and actively moving to destroy the family - the very foundation of society as instituted by God Himself when He created Adam and Eve. This is a nation attempting to restrict religious freedom, while it promotes an agenda to give more power to those seeking to destroy lives at conception. This is a nation that has been deceived into believing that peace can be made by dividing the land of Israel and taking sovereignty of Jerusalem away from the Jewish people.

We need the Lord’s mercy!

Hearing the words of the Lord to Solomon, we should realize that the responsibility for the future of this nation lies with us, the Church of the Living God. We are His people, those called by His name. The onus is on us to humble ourselves before God, to pray and seek His face, to repent and ask for His forgiveness and mercy upon our nation.

But, we must clean up our own house before we can expect God to bring healing to our land. We must confess our own sins, our own shortcomings as the people of God if we expect God to hear us. In Luke 18: 10-14 Jesus warns us not being like the Pharisees who thought they were better than all the sinners who surrounded them. While we recognize the depravity into which our nation is descending, our response must not be to point out the sins of others, but rather to cry out as the tax collector “God, be merciful on me a sinner!” Then we will be justified; then we will see the Lord move in our churches and in our nation.

This is the first stage of the Heal our Land prayer campaign. We will focus on repentance and calling upon God for His forgiveness and mercy. The second stage of the prayer campaign will focus on seeking a leader from the Lord in the weeks leading up to the Presidential Election in November.

Please join us in a spirit of humility, sincerity and also joy, as we recognize the great blessing we have in Jesus, our High Priest, who mediates for us before the Father.

By Daryl Hedding

June Prayer Focus:
Family: Sanctity of Marriage

“Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and the two will become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” (Matthew 19: 4-5)
New Faces of the ICEJ

The ICEJ’s annual gathering of national directors in Prague last month drew a wide representation of our global ministry, including quite a few new faces. New branch directors from India, Italy and Thailand told the conference of how they came to love Israel and got involved with the Christian Embassy, while our veteran national director in Bolivia gave a remarkable testimony of God’s faithfulness.

ICEJ BOLIVIA

Pastor Alberto has been the national director of ICEJ-Bolivia for several years now and is bringing ever larger groups to the Feast of Tabernacles each year. This September, he is expecting to lead nearly 200 Bolivian pilgrims to this year’s gathering.

In Prague, Pastor Alberto also shared about a unique initiative he started some five years ago on behalf of Israel which is now observed in dozens of churches he is affiliated with. In keeping with the instructions of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, they hold a meeting every Friday night to teach about Israel and pray for the Jewish people and nation. The Shabbat gatherings also take up a weekly collection for the ministry of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. This has enabled Pastor Alberto to bring offerings to the Feast of over $50,000 in recent years, even though Bolivia is the poorest country in South America.

Pastor Alberto noted that since he began this practice, his ministry has exploded. His church is growing, God has been moving in healings and salvations, many in his congregation are prospering, and other churches in his network are reporting similar blessings from on high.
ICEJ ITALY
Antonio Rozzini has been a pastor, church planter and youth ministry coordinator for the Assemblies of God in Italy since 1993. He currently oversees a congregation of more than 300 members in the city of Bergamo, near Milan, while also working as a high school teacher.

Three years ago, Tony was challenged by a dear Finnish saint visiting his church concerning his lack of a clear stand on Israel. So he decided to visit Israel in 2009 and came away “hooked”. His personal study of the books of Romans and Revelation also opened his eyes to the importance of Israel’s restoration.

Pastor Tony is now trying to get the growing Evangelical body in Italy to realise their spiritual debt to the Jewish people. He became connected to the ICEJ through our UK national director, Pastor David Elms, and now he is eager ly planning conferences and concerts in Italy to build support for Israel. This will include performances by Italy’s best pianist playing music written by Jews in Nazi concentration camps.

“I am honestly humbled to serve the people of God”
Pastor Antonio Rozzini
(ICEJ Italy)

ICEJ THAILAND
Pastor Krisada has a great burden for his nation of Thailand, as 90% of the population is Buddhist and only 0.2% are Christians. He once saw a documentary on the mighty move of God taking place in Uganda and felt a boldness to believe the same could happen in his country. So he has been busy planting churches throughout Thailand over the past ten years.

In 2007, Pastor Krisada joined a tour of holy sites in Israel and also came to the ICEJ’s Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem for the first time. There, he had an encounter with the Lord concerning modern Israel’s place in God’s plans. Ever since, he has been teaching against Replacement Theology, translating books about Israel’s restoration into his native Thai language, and organizing tours to the Feast. Over recent years the churches have opened up to his message on comforting Israel and his Feast tours are growing rapidly. Three years ago he had four Feast pilgrims, then 30, and last year over 100 Thai pilgrims joined his Feast tour.

“Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession...”
Psalm 2:8

“I am honestly humbled to serve the people of God”
Pastor Krisada Chusakulthanachai
(ICEJ Thailand)

“I can tell that the Christian Embassy is working with power to give light to Israel”
Pastor Meka ‘Danny’ Padma Rao
(ICEJ India)

“And when I come, whomever you approve... I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem” 1 Cor. 16: 3
Pastor Alberto Magno de Sales
(ICEJ Bolivia)

“In the midst of darkness... we should focus on Him and His glory will be seen upon us. Arise and shine!”
Pastor Krisada Chusakulthanachai
(ICEJ Thailand)
In pursuing our calling to comfort the Jewish people, we are especially concerned about the many troubled youth in Israel. The younger generation are the future of this nation and it is heartbreaking to see so many of them confronted by daunting challenges that dim their prospects in life. Through various partnerships, ICEJ AID is reaching out to Israeli youths-at-risk in hopes of giving them a fair chance to succeed.

Vickie (name changed) was born to a drug-addicted mother and barely knew her father. At the age of six, she was placed in a home for foster children while her mother was put in a rehabilitation center. Although her mother wanted to maintain a relationship with Vickie, health problems prevented her from visiting the home regularly. It took Vickie time to adjust to the reality that this was her home.

At the beginning of this year, Vickie learned that her mother had died. Still only 14 years old, she took the news very hard. She was afraid to go to the funeral, which was attended almost solely by social workers and staff from the children’s home. This highlighted just how alone Vickie is in the world. She felt hopeless.

Currently, the youth share tiny rooms in old, dilapidated caravans which are unsuitable. Beit Singer is in urgent need of a better solution for the children, and is looking to purchase prefabricated cottages to replace the old caravans. Quite simply, our donations will give these deserving young people a happier environment within which to hope and dream.

“We view this housing project as of utmost importance to the well-being of our young people and count you as essential partners,” the manager of Beit Singer said when ICEJ AID recently committed the needed funds. “Together we can assist these children in becoming secure and confident young adults who respect themselves and those around them.”

Please join us as we give these and other young Israelis a new start in life.

Help support ICEJ AID: www.icejusa.org/aid

By Estera Wieja
Good Deeds in Beit Shean

By Estera Wieja

On the first day of spring the ICEJ team in Jerusalem took part in a hands-on project to bless the nation of Israel. The annual Good Deeds Day in the city of Beit Shean was a wonderful opportunity for our staff to join the citizens in their work to better their lives.

Beit Shean has a significant number of Ethiopian immigrants and the city is still struggling for unity among its residents. But the citizens are motivated to restore the beauty that once was, and they hope to see their home revived and improved once again.

Wearing the city’s “Doing Good” t-shirts to identify with the mission of the Good Deeds Day, we traveled north of Jerusalem to Beit Shean to do some practical work in the neighborhoods of this fairly small city in the Galilee. As we got to work, the local youth instantly got intrigued. They grabbed some tools and started preparing the walls of city buildings to paint them. After a few minutes of joyous interaction, our staff from all around the world together with the local Ethiopian teenagers were fully engaged and quickly moving from one task to another.

The ICEJ has been supporting a number of important endeavors in the city of Beit Shean and has a strong relationship with the city officials. We also had an opportunity to visit one of the three kindergartens for children with special needs that the ICEJ sponsors. The centers are old and small with outdated equipment and outdoor play areas that don’t have proper play equipment. ICEJ Aid continues to help the centers meet these needs.

Join us in “Doing Good” and support our work in Israel. Your gift to ICEJ Aid will make a real difference in the lives of Israelis like those in Beit Shean.

Estera Wieja serves as a staff writer for the ICEJ News and Media team in Jerusalem
**Arise**

The new director of our Young Adults program, Jani Salokangas, presented his vision to reach out to the younger generation on Israel’s behalf. The youth are part of the body of Christ and if we leave them out of our ministry efforts it would actually be the same as dividing the body. He also brought it to a personal level by asking the question: What if you as a parent had never told your own children about God’s will and plans concerning Israel? He then unveiled the new name “Arise” for the ICEJ’s Next Generation ministry, formerly known as Grafted. A new Internet magazine by the same name will be issued four times per year, the first one to come out in June. Several national directors immediately invited Jani to visit the youth in their respective countries and our Next Generation outreach is going forward with great anticipation.

**The Unique Mandate of the ICEJ**

Our guiding mandate is to comfort the Jewish people, the nation of Israel and all its citizens (Isaiah 40:1-2). We defend Israel in her righteous cause to live as a nation in peace and security in her ancient homeland. We have a high-profile presence in Israel based out of our head office in Jerusalem. Through its various practical projects and colourful expressions, our ministry is demonstrating the unconditional love and concern shared by Christians worldwide for the people of the Promised Land. We are in Israel to love, to bless and to stand with the chosen people of God. For this very same reason, our national branches have been established worldwide. We have a unique character and calling among other Christian ministries and have been faithfully carrying it out for more than 30 years. This we will continue to do.

**Our Prophetic Call to the Church**

Our call is also from Jerusalem outward to the nations. We remind churches among the nations of their debt and responsibilities towards the Jewish people. We share about God’s purposes for Israel and the Church’s mandate from God to bless her, pray for her and stand with her (Genesis 12:1-3; Psalm 122; Romans 9-11). We also are a prophetic voice to the body of Christ concerning the promised restoration of Israel in these last days.

**The Coming Judgement**

The nations will be judged uprightly. One measuring stick which God will use to judge the nations will be how they have related to Jerusalem, to the land of Israel and to the Jewish people (Zechariah 12, Joel 3, Matthew 25). Thus, it remains essential to assess what kind of relationship our respective nations have with Israel. Being aware that the revealed will of God dictates that we not take part in the dividing of Jerusalem or the land of Israel can save our nations from harm and instead bring a wonderful blessing. We can be instrumental in turning people in the right direction by shedding light on God’s sure promises concerning Israel and the nations.

**A Message to All**

Our message then, is as well suited for kings, presidents and prime ministers, as it is for church leaders. The Bible affirms that God will save Israel (Deuteronomy 32, Ezekiel 36). And the Bible affirms that God guides the nations of the earth and does so through their leaders – either to a blessing or to a curse (Psalm 67:4, 2 Kings 23:21-26, Proverbs 14:34). God’s eyes not only see individuals, but collectively families and cities and nations (Exodus 12, Leviticus 16, Acts 16:31, Matthew 11:21-24, Genesis 12:1-3, Deuteronomy 32:8, Acts 17:26). It is the national leadership of a nation that determines how that nation relates to the other nations of the world – and particularly to Israel! The Lord has called us to reach out and speak into the lives of these leaders – both secular and spiritual!

**A Two-Edged Sword**

We, as a ministry in the nations, share the burden of both God’s plan for Israel and the message of salvation in the gospel of Jesus Christ! With the world moving towards darker days, we are showing them the glorious salvation in Jesus and the shining light of God’s faithfulness towards Israel. This is not our choice, but His. Our message in the nations can wake up and stir the people. At the end of the day, it is all about Jesus (Luke 24:25-27, 44-49, Acts 1:6-8, Rev. 19:10)!

Rev. Juha Ketola serves as the ICEJ International Director in Jerusalem

“A MINISTRY TO THE NATIONS”

Participants at the ICEJ National Directors Conference pause to visit the Nazi Concentration Camp of Terezin just outside Prague during the May gathering in the Czech Republic

“WE, AS A MINISTRY IN THE NATIONS, SHARE THE BURDEN OF BOTH GOD’S PLAN FOR ISRAEL AND THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!”

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