The first night of the 2012 Feast of Tabernacles celebration will always remain an unforgettable experience. The weather was unbearably and unusually hot along the shores of the Dead Sea at Ein Gedi. But as our guest speaker Angus Buchan began his message by reading from Acts chapter 2 - a passage which speaks about the Holy Spirit falling on the disciples like a “rushing mighty wind” - the atmosphere quickly changed...

Even as Angus read these words, a fresh breeze began to blow. Upon closing his Bible to preach, the wind became stronger and eventually the stage had to be evacuated. Only Angus was left there, preaching. Within minutes, the winds also brought gentle, refreshing rains.

As all this transpired, something else took place backstage. Some overheated wires in the TV transmission truck caught fire, interrupting the live satellite feed.

Now all three manifestations – of wind, fire and rain – are frequently used in the Bible as symbols of the Holy Spirit (for example, Isaiah 44:3-4; John 3:8; Acts 2:4). The wind, fire and rain we saw were not the wind, rain or fire of the Holy Spirit. But I truly believe in my heart that God gave us a powerful sign that night of His great desire to pour out His Spirit on all of us. It became an affirmation for us of our Feast theme, “The Spirit of Grace and Supplication.” From that first night onward, we received testimonies of God changing people’s lives. Reconciliations took place! People were filled with the Holy Spirit! Our faith was increased for revival!

With the gusting winds shaking the sound and light systems around the stage, we had to ask the crowds to stay back in their seats, but still they surged forward. Angus later stated that he had never experienced a meeting like that. Normally, he said, one needs to coax people to come forward for an altar call, but here he asked them to stay back. Yet people still came in their masses.

So the biggest sign for me that night was not the wind, the rain or the fire, but it was the people of God themselves. The storm could have easily caused chaos or mass panic among the 4,500 people gathered at Ein Gedi. But instead, they pressed forward to receive prayer even when Angus and the ushers urged them to stay back. The chaotic weather actually revealed the spiritual hunger in God’s people. We continued to witness this over the following days as record crowds attended the early morning prayer meetings and then lingered late at night in the afterglow worship. God indeed visited us and our faith was emboldened to expect more from Him in the days ahead!

Dr. Jürgen Bühler serves as ICEJ Executive Director and lives with his family in Jerusalem.
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

ICEJ Tours to Israel in 2013

Women of the Word Study Tour
April 17-26th 2013
This unique tour invites women to travel the Holy Land through the perspective of the great women of the Bible.
With Dr. Carrie Burns - Cost $3,594 (Flying from Dallas)

2013 Feast of Tabernacles Tour
September 17 - 27, 2013
Don’t just visit the land of the Bible, experience the God of the Bible at the Feast of Tabernacles. 10 days of touring plus 5 nights of annointed worship & teaching.
Cost approx $3,995 (Flights included. Final price tbc.)

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Next Year in Jerusalem

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Everyone Has a Story

Every year, millions of people travel to Israel. They come to see, to learn, and to experience a place etched in the imagination of anyone who has ever picked up a Bible. But, visiting Israel for the Feast of Tabernacles is different. For over 30 years Feast Pilgrims have come back again and again, not just to see Israel, but to meet the Lord. Here are some of their stories...

“I CAME TO TOUCH THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT”
Marlene, Canada

“A few months ago I was battling depression (and didn’t realize it), feelings of purposelessness, doubt, loneliness and darkness as I have never felt before... and I’m not sure why! My personal calling and purpose have always been a mystery to me...

“I’ve always wanted to journey to Israel, especially during one of the Lord’s Feasts, but was not sure when that would happen. And I think the Lord put it on my heart this year to make a trip during this time in my life ... and so there I was!

“Everyone has a story to share and this is mine:

“GOD MET ME AT THE WALL”
Jeremy, Tennessee

“Much has happened since arriving back in Jerusalem two days ago. We did the normal touring, hitting spots like the City of David and taking a drive over to Bethlehem, but the highlights over the last two days included a second visit to the Western Wall, opening night at Ein Gedi, communion service at the Garden Tomb, and finally, the roll call of nations at the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles...

“While each of these highlights have touched my heart in a deep and profound manner, the Western Wall, Judaism’s most holy site, has been the place that has had the deepest restorative effect during my time in Israel.

“It was here, on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, that I felt my life changed.

I prayed to my God to help me release my past – my past failures and heartache... Tears streamed uncontrollably down my face and I felt a sense of relief and joy that I had lost over the past year. My God met me at the Wall that day and again the second time. I was thankful to return to the Wall and to offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the constant restoration of my heart and soul.

“Later in the evening the tour group made its way back to the Judean desert to attend the opening celebration of the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles at Ein Gedi.

“The air was charged with excitement and the crowd was eager to pour out their hearts to God in worship to receive the Holy Spirit... After the celebration, all the exhaustion I had felt the previous days completely vanished! I felt as if my feet were ten feet off the ground.”
The annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration, sponsored by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, drew over 5,000 Christians from some 90 countries this year, including a special delegation of 25 parliamentarians from 17 nations. Together, the Feast pilgrims and visiting Christian legislators delivered a powerful and timely message of solidarity with Israel. This year’s gathering was also notable for its rich spiritual content, as the unmistakable presence of the Lord was evident throughout the week of festivities, right from the opening event at Ein Gedi.

In recent years, the Ein Gedi Spa has hosted our traditional desert meal and celebration along the shores of the Dead Sea. The stage once again was surrounded by lighted palm trees as a bright full moon rose over the mountains of Jordan, providing a glorious setting for the Feast worship team to lead the gathering of 4,500 Christians into the Lord’s presence. As usual for the desert in early autumn, the evening air was very hot, dry and still as the praise and worship rose upwards to the heavens.

But then, as special guest speaker Angus Buchan came on the platform to minister, the atmosphere suddenly changed. Angus spoke from Acts 2:1-4 regarding the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. As he read the verses about the Upper Room being filled with the Spirit “as of a rushing mighty wind”, all of a sudden the wind began to stir and blow on the Feast crowd gathered at the Dead Sea. Within minutes, the weather went from sweltering, dead calm to heavy gusts and driving rains. Even the local residents of Kibbutz Ein Gedi insisted it was an extremely rare burst of wind and rain for their area – the lowest and one of the driest points on earth.

Angus is a South African farmer-turned-evangelist who is known for extraordinary weather events at his meetings, particularly as he prays for rain in drought-stricken regions. So he was the right man to be standing on stage as the strong winds and rains began sweeping down from the Judean hills above Ein Gedi.

“I want to read to you about what happened in the Upper Room in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago,” Angus began. “And I’ve been praying, ‘Lord, do it again. Do it at Ein Gedi, right here on September 30th, 2012. Lord, there are enough people in this place from all over the world to change the world for Christ.’”

“I have no theological training,” Angus continued. “But I’ve been to the cross. And I know my Redeemer lives. My Redeemer is more real to me than you sitting in that chair. I have seen him move the weather. He is the Weatherman!”
“Tonight, when I heard you worshipping God, I heard a people that are of one accord... people from all over the world of one accord. Folks, this is the Upper Room! And tonight we’re going to ask Jesus to do the same thing that he did 2,000 years ago, to send his Holy Spirit so that we return to our countries and bring revival!”

As the winds intensified, Angus asked the crowd, “Can you feel that breeze? I’m praying, ‘Holy Spirit come like a mighty wind.’ I will never, ever limit God again. I have seen the Lord work signs and wonders and miracles.”

No one present at Ein Gedi that evening will ever forget the unusual manifestation of God’s presence in our midst. Indeed, His presence stayed with the Feast throughout the rest of the week, although in other dimensions. The next day, for instance, Feast pilgrims packed into the Garden Tomb for Communion services which were bathed in the unsurpassed peace of Jesus won for us on the cross.

By week’s end, the times of worship and ministry in the word – centered on the theme of “The Spirit of Grace and Supplication” – had so impacted the Feast pilgrims that record numbers were showing up early for the morning prayer and worship sessions. Surely, many lives were touched and changed forever at this year’s Feast of Tabernacles.

Feast 2012 also was noteworthy for its timely expression of support for Israel, as the pilgrims’ message of solidarity was reinforced by the attendance of pro-Israel parliamentarians from 17 nations.

The visiting lawmakers were affiliated with the International Israel Allies Foundation, which held an adjoining conference that same week. Present were chairmen and leading members of pro-Israel causes, founded in some two dozen national legislatures around the world. The Christian Embassy, along with the World Jewish Congress, was a co-sponsor of the IIAF’s “Chairmen’s Conference” and hosted the foreign dignitaries at several Feast events.
“We were excited about hosting a number of Christian parliamentarians noted for their strong support of Israel,” said Dr. Jürgen Bühler, the ICEJ’s Executive Director. “Their presence in Jerusalem and the message of solidarity they brought could not have come at a better time, as Israel faces serious security challenges in the region and renewed diplomatic challenges at the United Nations. So this was a Feast of joy and celebration, but also of declaring to the world that Israel is not alone.”

One evening, the Feast program included a video greeting from Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, as well as addresses by Minister for Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs Yuli Edelstein, former MK Rabbi Benny Elon, now president of the International Israel Allies Foundation, and Dan Diker, Secretary General of the World Jewish Congress.

Prime Minister Netanyahu remarked, “Thirty years ago the International Christian Embassy showed what it means to be an unwavering friend of Israel. When many countries decided to pull their embassies out of Jerusalem, you decided to move in. You were willing to stand against the current then, and I know you are willing to stand against the current today.”

“I know you will continue in your unwavering support of the Jewish state and the Jewish people,” Netanyahu added. “On behalf of all the people of Israel, thank you for your unequivocal support, thank you for your courage of standing up for the truth, and thank you for celebrating Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, the eternal and undivided capital of Israel.”

Minister Edelstein noted, “The Jews of Israel possess a wealth of sophisticated technology, and God by His grace has put

(PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU CONTINUED)
in our hands a keen and mighty sword. Yet, far be it from me to fall into the old error of pride, saying my power and the strength of my hands have achieved it. God has blessed us! But mortal danger still stares us in the face. But this time we will not be facing these crazy regimes all alone.”

Speaking on behalf of the World Jewish Congress, Diker commented, “Our Christian brothers and sisters, the promises of the Holy One and of our Bible are being kept. The only proof we need is to look to your left and your right. Who would have thought, in our lifetimes, that the Jewish people after 2000 years of dispersion, after mass murder, would return to their ancient homeland of Israel and would be sitting tonight in their undivided capital, Jerusalem.”

“I said it when I was the Minister of Tourism, and I’ll say it again, I don’t see here even one tourist,” Rabbi Elon told the gathering. “This is not tourism, this is a spiritual experience! This is not even friendship, this is kinship and strengthening us, and this is love for the sake of love.”

Elon then called the members of parliament to the platform one-by-one, with a long line forming across the stage in an impressive display of Christian support for Israel.

The parliamentarians attending the Feast as part of the IIAF delegation included US Congressman Trent Franks, Member of the European Parliament Hannu Takkula (Finland), MP James Lunney of Canada, and South Africa MP Kenneth Meshoe, who all addressed the Feast in seminars and on Israeli Guest Night.

The Feast culminated with the popular Jerusalem March through the streets of the capital, with five of the parliamentarians joining the parade. Tens of thousands of Israelis lined the sidewalks to view the colorful and heartfelt display of Christian friendship and support.

**DAVID PARSONS** serves as ICEJ Media and Public Relations Director in Jerusalem, as contributing editor of *The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition*, and producer of the ICEJ’s weekly radio program, *Front Page Jerusalem*.

**TO WATCH ANGUS BUCHAN** speaking at Ein Gedi plus information about attending the 2013 Feast of Tabernacles Celebration go to: [WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG](http://WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG)
Sons of Manasseh
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After 2,700 years in exile, over 7,000 direct descendants of the ancient tribe of Manasseh are ready to come to Israel. Will you help them? Give today at: us.icej.org/aid/aliyah

The return of the Bnei Menashe continues to offer an amazing opportunity for Christians to express our love and support for Israel, and to participate in the promised last-day return of the Jewish people to their homeland. We still need your immediate help, to continue to cover the $300,000 cost of this historic aliyah initiative.

So please give generously to help these ancient exiles come home for Hannukah!