The situation in the Middle East has become more dangerous and fragile than ever before. The Egyptian-led Muslim Brotherhood is fomenting a rolling revolt that is overthrowing nation after nation in the region. Its hatred of America is evident in its attacks on US Consulates and Embassies on the very day when Americans solemnly remembered the attacks of 9/11. Its movement of military hardware into the Sinai Desert and near the border of Israel is a violation and clear disregard of the peace agreement between the two nations.

A new Islamic Caliphate is emerging with its hatred of all things western and an underlying agenda for the destruction of Israel. The western powers, including America, appear to be so fully intimidated that they are unable, and probably more correctly, unwilling to stop this growing radical menace. These were the same powers that welcomed the Arab Spring and heralded it as a new day of democracy and freedom! It is nothing of the sort!

More alarming still is the fact that sanctions have done absolutely nothing in terms of deterring Iran from its intention to build a nuclear weapon. The constant round of failed talks in this regard has made fools out of western negotiators and those of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We have had talks about talks and more talks to see if talks will work and talks to start talks but the Iranians have laughed all the way to their underground nuclear bunkers and facilities. Israel is in their gun-sights and recently their Supreme Leader said that should the nation of Israel exist the nations of the world will have no future.

So, once again, the Nazi call for the destruction of the Jews for the benefit of the world has been heard with little or no response from the world. Hitler was emboldened to do with the Jews as he wished when he learned that the world was not interested in helping them. I fear that we have come to the same place in just seventy years!

Benjamin Netanyahu has constantly warned the world of this danger but to no
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was founded in 1980 as an act of comfort and solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people in their claim to Jerusalem.

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

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

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

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

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

UPCOMING ICEJ EVENTS

Marietta, GA
Israel, Islam & Me
Saturday, November 3 @ 9.00am
Marietta Church of God
1083 Allgood Road, Marietta, GA
Susan Michael & Daryl Hedding

Selah, WA
Discerning the Times
Saturday, November 3 @ 9.00am
Selah Covenant Church
560 McGonagle Rd, Selah WA
Larry Booth & Michael Hines

Register now at: www.icejusa.org/events
For more details call: (615) 895-9830

Next Year in Jerusalem
השנה הבאה בירושלים!
ICEJ FEAST OF TABERNACLES TOUR
September 17th - September 27th, 2013

2013 FEAST OF TABERNACLES
TIME of HARVEST
Jerusalem, Sept. 20th - Sept. 25th, 2013
Heal our Land

There is God-given dignity in work. But we cannot serve two masters.

By Michael Hines

Work means a lot of different things to different people, from getting ahead to just getting by. But to the 12 million people in this nation struggling to find employment, it has a far deeper significance. Why? Because work is at the heart of the dignity of humanity. It’s a concept deeply rooted in the Judeo-Christian fabric of this nation – as much a part of God’s original design in creation as the sanctity of life or the centrality of marriage. Before Adam and Eve ever sinned, they were given a ‘job’ in the Garden of Eden. God Himself rested on the seventh day from His work...

Yet, we live in a time when the foundational Judeo-Christian values of our society are under assault – the dignity of work among them. The secular world teaches us that work is nothing more than a necessary evil – something we engage in to enrich ourselves and satisfy our wants. As a result we are told it is okay to envy the wealth of others while expecting to enjoy the fruits of their labor!

The Bible takes a very different view. All we have – our strength, our talents and resources alike – it all comes from God. As Christians, therefore, we do not work for a paycheck or for men, but for the glory of the King of Kings. (Eph 6:5-6; Col 3:22-24). Our lives are not our own, Paul says, we’ve been bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20). Our work matters in time and eternity, because our lives matter to God.

In the days of King Ahab, God sent Elijah to proclaim a drought on Israel. The reason was simple: the nation had turned from the Lord and had begun worshipping Baal – a Canaanite ‘rain god’ whose priests promised bountiful harvests and economic success. Israel had forgotten that the God of Abraham was the source of all their provision.

Instead they worshipped Baal thinking that he would make them rich!

At the end of three years, the Lord sent Elijah back to Israel to call the nation to repentance:

“And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’” (1 Kings 18:21)

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus voiced something very similar: “No one can serve two masters,” He said.

For too long in this nation, we’ve been faltering between two opinions in our attitude to work. We’ve been trying to serve both God and money. In the past few years we’ve been reminded in dramatic terms that it cannot be done. But, if we are willing to humble ourselves and repent, perhaps we can see the blessing of God come upon this nation again!

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PRAYER FOCUS:
STEWARDSHIP: WORK & WEALTH

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon... Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6: 24, 31-33)

www.icejusa.org/healourland

Michael Hines currently serves as Outreach Director for the US Branch of the ICEJ.
The ICEJ’s Adoption Program is a vital source of support for Holocaust survivors like Miriam.
Adopting a Holocaust Survivor

In recent years, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has intensified its effort to reach out in compassion to Israel’s aging community of Holocaust survivors, which currently numbers around 200,000.

By Nicole Yoder - Director ICEJ AID

Most of these survivors are now well into their 70s and 80s if not older, and many suffer from illnesses related to the severe malnourishment they endured as youngsters during the worst deprivations of World War II. Besides serious medical problems, many also struggle with acute loneliness and other emotional traumas.

One of the ways we are assisting them is through an adoption program whereby Christians around the world can befriend and support an individual Holocaust survivor.

The ICEJ’s Holocaust Survivor Adoption Program is not only a vital source of financial support, it also helps the survivors know that they are not forgotten. Each one is deeply grateful for this assistance and tells their Jewish friends and neighbors about their Christian sponsors.

Some of the adoptions are done through the Israeli charity L’Chaim, while other potential adoptees reside in the ICEJ’s Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors.

By becoming a part of this program, you can have a personal sense of connection to these precious Holocaust survivors and the assisted-living home we have created for them in Haifa. On a recent visit, we learned more fully how much the support means.

“I love her without knowing her!” said Esther as she held a postcard from her adoptive Christian sponsor close to her heart. “After losing family in the Holocaust, it means so much that people are thinking of us.”

As Yitzhak slept, devoted wife Fanny smiled with pleasure as a letter to the couple was translated into Hebrew. Yitzhak sleeps a lot, she explained, as he is very weak now. When Yitzhak was only 10 years old, he worked as hard as any adult in the Lodz slave labor camp to avoid deportation to the death camps. His small size allowed him to escape from the ghetto at night to try and steal food and other items to help its Jewish residents cope. Now he is weakened by poor health and old age to the point that it has basically overcome him. But Yitzhak takes comfort in knowing that his waning years are being spent within the secure and loving environment of the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors.

Many Christians today say they would have risked their lives to help rescue Jews if they had lived back during the Nazi genocide. Yet right now, we have the opportunity to help those who did survive but still struggle with its impact even in old age. Please consider making one of these dear ones your personal friend.

Contact us at icejusa@icejusa.org for more information on adopting a Holocaust survivor. Or send a donation to help us cover the continuing renovations and daily operating costs of the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors. Make your gift today at www.icejusa.org/aid
**Strength and Dignity**

Witnessing Christian Comfort to Holocaust Survivors

**By Carrie Burns**

Yudit Setz, Social Worker and Deputy Director for ICEJ AID, took me to the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors to meet the director, to see the home, and best of all to meet the survivors who live there. Yudit radiated love when she told us that survivors so wanted to live there that in 2009 when the work started, there were 800 applicants for the fifty spaces in the only Holocaust Survivors’ Home in Israel.

If this were not special enough, we learned that the home is mainly funded by Christians (ICEJ), and mostly by German Christians. It is good for this to be so. It is healing, for the givers and for the survivors who managed to make it out of Europe alive.

There’s strength and dignity for both.

Some of the residents have a room of their own, some share apartment suites with their spouses. Yudit took us door to door to visit her friends. We received their generous hospitality, listened to music from the old country and received gifts.

Yudit told us that people and businesses in the nearby neighborhood love to give to the survivors in all kinds of ways, doing the ladies’ nails and hair, teaching crafts, holding classes at the science museum that’s next door, and other things. People love to love them, they love being with them.

The survivors are nurtured, strengthened, honored and enriched, and so are the people who connect with them.

And then I learned of something even more moving. Shimon Sabag, Director of the Home and perpetual-motion machine, was seized by a brilliant idea: hold a pageant for survivors, to strengthen and honor them and to raise awareness of the Holocaust. 800 survivors from all over Israel attended the red carpet gala dinner and pageant event in June where four judges heard personal stories of survival from each of the fourteen finalists as well as how each woman has contributed to society. Inner beauty was championed, though the contestants couldn’t help but feel pretty on the outside as well.

In the end, Hava Hershkovitz, age 79, from Romania, was crowned, “Miss Holocaust Survivor of Israel.” She exclaimed, “We are still alive. Beauty is our revenge.”

Not all Holocaust survivors in Israel feel this beautiful. I learned that in Israel now, there are 200,000 Holocaust survivors (35 die every day), and that a recent study found that forty percent of survivors feel utterly alone. A third of them live in poverty.

ICEJ is here to help. Yudit is asking Christians to adopt a survivor, giving any amount as a one-time gift or monthly for a minimum six-month commitment. Those who adopt receive the survivor’s story as well as updates about the Home and all those involved.

May God clothe you with strength and dignity (Proverbs 31:25), as you make strength and dignity possible for these special ones, who are still alive, beautiful, and deserving.

Dr. Carrie Burns is the Educational Programs Developer for the US branch of the ICEJ. She was recently in Jerusalem to witness Isaiah 40:1 in action through the ICEJ and to share her insights and impressions on what she saw.
In recent decades, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has helped some 115,000 Jewish people make the journey home to Israel. In June, the ICEJ again sponsored an Aliyah Fair for 300 new arrivals from France, Argentina, England and South Africa, paying for their rooms and meals at a Jerusalem hotel so they could take part in a “Red Carpet” welcome event to receive Israeli ID cards and secure health insurance, bank accounts and cell phones – all within 24 hours of landing.

Sophie, who came with her husband and two small children from Paris, explained why they came but asked not to give their last name to protect Jewish relatives back in France.

“Israel is very good for us Jews,” she stated. “In France, there are a lot of problems for Jewish people – on the train, the bus or at work. We have many problems with the Arabs. There is a lot of anti-Semitism even in Paris. The people see the mezuzah on our door and they don’t like it. They don’t like us Jews.”

Another family, the Benoliel’s, spent years waiting to leave their home near Paris to start over in Israel.

“For over seven years we have been planning to come to Israel. But I became pregnant with our first child and then we had twins,” Ariella Benoliel explained. “But now was the right time. We came because of our love for this country and our Jewish history.... I always wanted to move to Israel, even as child.”

Yet they were not only drawn to Israel, they were chased here as well.

“There is a lot of anti-Semitism in France, therefore I don’t want to stay there any longer with my children. Financially we probably had a better life in France, but here in Israel we are free to live as Jews, and it is also better for the kids,” Ariella assured.

During a visit to Israel for Sukkot two years ago, she realized how much she misses the observance of her Jewish faith in safety.

“We walked through the streets and... everybody was celebrating. I had to cry, it was so beautiful. I feel connected with Israel. God is here!”

Some 100,000 French Jews now live in Israel and another 2,000 are coming each year. But 500,000 remain in France, making it the largest Jewish community in Europe.

Until recently, France was a comfortable place for Jews to live. However, violent incidents like the deadly shooting attack at a Jewish day school in Toulouse in March have stirred fears of growing Islamic anti-Semitism. Today, many more are considering a permanent move to Israel.

PleAsE jOIn US In HELPInG mOrE jEuWS COmE hOmE tO ISrAEL

You can make your gift to support the Aliyah Operations of ICEJ at www.icejusa.org/aid/aliyah
avail. Not even the USA is prepared to draw a red line thereby demarking the limits of its patience with this evil Iranian regime. The Presidential elections in the USA are far too important to an American President who has done everything possible to deter Israel from looking after its own security. More disturbing still is the revelation that a significant number in the Democratic Party believe that Jerusalem should be disinvested from the Jewish people and thus no longer be the Capital of the State of Israel!

These are not good positions and they embolden Israel’s enemies to believe that now is the time to “wipe Israel off the map of the earth”; as Ahmadinejad of Iran has stated time and time again.

I have to sadly say that, failing a break-through somewhere in all of this, we are looking at a fast approaching war in the Middle East. I do not write this easily or flippantly but Israel can simply not allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons. The consequences for her and the region would be catastrophic.

Even America would be threatened. Many Arab states know this as well and are terrified by the possibility of a nuclear armed Iran. Indeed the march of the Muslim Brotherhood through the region is also going to impact other states in the region like Jordan. We live in dangerous days!

So, now we have to take stock as Christians and decide where our loyalties lie. To stand with or against Israel is no longer just a theological debate. No, it has become a matter of life and death just as it was seventy years ago in Nazi Germany.

We cannot be silent and we must move on from and leave those Christians behind who refuse to pick up their biblical responsibilities to Israel. There is no time left to play these theological games anymore.

The days are urgent and evil and we must renew our commitment to pray for Israel and do all that we can to secure her existence and blessing. God is watching.

Our time has come to act.

Rev. Malcolm Hedding is ICEJ Executive Director Emeritus, an Associate Minister at World Outreach Church in Murfreesboro, TN and Vice-Chairman of the ICEJ’s International Board of Trustees. To invite Malcolm to minister to your church, call: (615) 895-9830. Reprinted with permission from www.malcolmhedding.com

“The days are urgent... We must renew our commitment to pray for Israel and do all we can to secure her existence and blessing.”

NUCLEAR ROAD: Iran’s Natanz Nuclear Facility is located in this region among the famous Karkas mountain chain, known as the ‘mountain of vultures’.

COVER PHOTO: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at September 11th press conference asking how long will the world ask Israel to wait.