And that’s how we first stumbled across the Continental Divide, tucked away on the historic section of Route 66 that runs parallel to I-40 in western New Mexico. In the contours of the burnt red sandstone hills, you can glimpse the unbroken ridgeline that extends all the way from Alaska to the tip of South America. It’s one of the great watersheds of the world, carving a path from the top of the globe to the bottom, across the giant mountain peaks of the Canadian Rockies to the foot of the Argentinian Andes. In many ways it represents the backbone of the Americas. To the east of this point all rivers flow into the Atlantic Ocean. To the west they fall into the Pacific.

Now, our small seven-person ministry team is heading on to Arizona.

The doors open and everyone jumps out: two boys, two girls and our 15-year old niece who courageously opted to forsake California to spend the summer on the road with the ICEJ. My wife Bonni takes a moment to rummage through the cooler for some snacks. It’s past two and everyone’s ready for lunch. Six more hours of driving; seven or eight if we stop...

And that’s how we first stumbled across the Continental Divide, tucked away on the historic section of Route 66 that runs parallel to I-40 in western New Mexico. In the contours of the burnt red sandstone hills, you can glimpse the unbroken ridgeline that extends all the way from Alaska to the tip of South America. It’s one of the great watersheds of the world, carving a path from the top of the globe to the bottom, across the giant mountain peaks of the Canadian Rockies to the foot of the Argentinian Andes. In many ways it represents the backbone of the Americas. To the east of this point all rivers flow into the Atlantic Ocean. To the west they fall into the Pacific.

It’s a place of decision: the fault-line of the nation.

>> CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
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.

ICEJ Speakers are available to visit your local community. Find out how to host us in your area. Call: (615) 895-9830

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### UPCOMING ICEJ EVENTS

**Selah, WA**

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

**Virginia Beach, VA**

*Susan Michael*
Monday, November 5 @ 12noon
Regent University
1000 Regent University Dr.
Call for details: (615) 895-9830

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God, Jerusalem & the DNC
Democrats Discover that Jerusalem is Difficult to Lift

By Daryl Hedding

All the grandeur of the Democratic National Convention was almost completely overshadowed this month as the Democrats found themselves under fire for releasing a party platform missing a key historical phrase supporting Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. They took further flak for removing any reference to God in their manifesto.

Realizing the error they had made in trying to be a little too progressive, the Democrats quickly turned around and held an embarrassing and unconvincing voice vote at the Convention to reinstate the line on Jerusalem and a reference to God, claiming this had all been a mistake.

What does this all mean? Firstly, it is clear that the once infallible non-partisan support for Israel in the US is now at risk with the Democratic Party struggling to control its own members’ open hostility to the idea that Jerusalem is, and should, be the capital of Israel. Even the Republicans made changes to their platform regarding Israel, pulling language that called for the US Embassy to be relocated back to Jerusalem, and endorsing the creation of a Palestinian state.

For those who have been following the trend over the last few years, these developments are further confirmation of what was already becoming apparent. The current administration has been intentionally vague in reference to Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, while President Obama’s attempts to reach out to the Muslim world and kick Arab control. To see this as anything other than the President’s unwillingness to support Jerusalem as Israel’s eternal capital is to belie the facts. Unfortunately, it makes the original Democratic platform for 2012 seem far more believable than the one rammed through in response to public pressure. That anyone was surprised by all this is probably the most surprising part of all.

But, what we really learn from all this is that whether or not you want God on your platform, you can never escape Him or the truth of His Word. In Zechariah 12 verse 3 He says (and I paraphrase) that He will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for everyone, and anyone who tries to lift it will damage themselves. The Democrats got a little taste of that this week; they tried to lift Jerusalem (and God) from their platform and suffered some hefty political damage as a result.

It should be a warning to all of us in this nation regardless of political affiliation. God will not be mocked and He will judge those who come against His land and His people. Now is the time to call on Him on behalf of this nation, to stand up as never before for Israel and her capital, Jerusalem, and to pray that the United States will be a blessing to Israel and not bring a curse upon herself.

In God we should trust.

Daryl Hedding serves both as Deputy Director for ICEJ USA and as Strategic Development Director for the ministry globally. He lives with his wife and children in Murfreesboro, TN.
Besides assisting in the aliyah of more than 115,000 Jews over recent decades, the International Christian Embassy has been helping new immigrants get established in the land of Israel. The government provides an “absorption basket” of housing grants and other incentives for those immigrant families in need of assistance, but it often runs out before the olim (newcomers) get truly settled in the land. For the neediest families, their struggles with adjusting to life in a new country and culture continue long after their flight touches down.

In recent years, ICEJ AID has been sponsoring a special program which assigns Israeli families as personal mentors to needy immigrant families, to help shepherd them through all the challenges of life in Israel. Bolstered by the Christian Embassy’s support, the program has quickly proven to be a successful way for those making aliyah to get planted back in the land of their forefathers.

The mentoring program is a uniquely innovative model for lifting newly-arrived families out of poverty and into mainstream society.

The mentoring program operates centers in several Israeli cities, where veteran Israelis are partnered with newcomers as “family guides” over the first year after their arrival. The guide examines the family’s particular needs, identifies their strong and weak points, and assesses the major factors preventing them from achieving financial independence. The guide and his assigned family then develop a year’s work plan to put them on their own by the first anniversary of their arrival.

Along the way, families may receive free legal advice, marriage counselling and other family services to make the absorption process easier.

The program was launched five years ago with five arriving families. By the end of this year, it will have helped 450 families.

ICEJ AID is especially anxious to help families with single mothers. Many of these women are looking for job training or even simple advice about ordinary life in Israel, such as finding day-care for their children.

In Jerusalem, ICEJ AID recently met a single mother with seven children who made aliyah from France several years ago and is still struggling with the Hebrew language, as well as with finding work in her profession because her degree did not have any Israeli equivalent. Her children go to Israeli schools, but at home they continue to speak French.

“Without knowing the language, it’s not easy for me to find friends, and I have no other family here,” the mother confided. “You are my family!”

Estera Wieja is originally from Poland and serves as a staff writer with the ICEJ Media Team in Jerusalem
Their dream was to move to Israel.

They are Cuban Jews – she is a paediatrician and he is an ER nurse. Their combined monthly income back in Castro’s Cuba was $44.95 a month. For food, they were allowed five eggs per person each month, but that’s all they could afford anyway. Forget about meat! And even the beautiful beaches on this Caribbean island were so expensive, they were only for tourists.

Before they left for Israel, his aging mother had a stroke and their twenty-year old daughter was not permitted to leave with them. For five years, they diligently worked to get out, but because Cuba desperately needs health care workers, taking leave was made more difficult for them.

Once Geraldo, Fernanda and their youngest daughter, Alegria (we changed their names to protect them) left the island of Cuba, their citizenship was renounced.

For this professional couple, one would think the ‘big suffer’ (as a caring Israeli social worker put it) would end upon their arrival in Israel. But, when they arrived fifteen months ago, a new set of hardships greeted them.

Though smiling and grateful, they described their new life as “hard, hard, hard!” They arrived in Israel without family, friends, money, jobs and everything else we take for granted. It was a question of starting over in every area.

First, their mother-tongue of Spanish had to be replaced with Hebrew. As with all new immigrants, it is not possible to work, to go to school, or to make friends without the local language. Ever try to learn Hebrew?

While laboring with the language, they also have worked with lawyers for seven months to bring their oldest daughter, Alejandra, to Israel. They are still working to retrieve their legal documents from Cuba, and still looking for meaningful employment. They must re-write their resumes in Hebrew, pass medical licensing exams in Hebrew, and spend time interning with Israeli health care workers before practicing on their own.

When asked, “Is it worth it?,” Geraldo and Fernanda showed a mix of love and disbelief. They do not miss Cuba, though Geraldo still has tearful concern for his mother. They are happy in Israel and full of hope because they are surrounded by caring people who are helping them through the ICEJ-sponsored mentoring program.

This has connected them to the right services and immersed them in a circle of grace. The mentors have helped them become a motivated family with a comprehensive plan to succeed. Goals have been set in four spheres – quality of life, finances, education and employment.

With the help of the Christian Embassy, this family of Cuban Jews have the tools they need to adjust and even contribute to their new land. The “big suffer” has been worth it.

Dr. Carrie Burns is the Educational Program Developer for ICEJ USA

Help new immigrants in Israel!
Make your tax-deductible gift today at: www.icejusa.org/aid
Israel is considered an affluent country but beneath its economic success story is a lot of lack and pain. Some 24% of Israelis live below the poverty line, including many single-parent families.

For this reason, the Arise Summer Hands-On Tour for 2012 made a deliberate effort to take time away from our visits to Bible sites and reach out to the hurting and needy.

Our group of 21 young Christians from nine different countries began the tour in Jerusalem, visiting holy places such as the Garden Tomb and Garden of Gethsemane. We spent a night in tents in a Bedouin oasis, where we had an awesome time of worship and prayer. We also hiked up Masada before dawn to watch the magnificent sunrise. The tour ended with two exciting days exploring the region around the Sea of Galilee where Jesus spent most of his ministry time.

In between touring and lectures, the Arise tour took part in several hands-on social projects. For instance, we volunteered at an absorption center in Jerusalem for Ethiopian Jewish immigrants, painting rooms and hallways, and joining children in creating a beautiful mosaic of Jerusalem.

"Your painting is better and cleaner than the professional painters who we usually hire," said the center’s director.

The Arise team also donated suitcases full of baby and children’s clothes and toys, plus toothbrushes and other toiletries – all brought from their home churches.

"This was a really great experience because we got to reach out to a group that is not usually the focus of attention," said Christabelle Uy from Canada. "I also had a great time hanging out at the youth center, where we played soccer and ping pong, and listened to some music the Ethiopian youths produced."

Another hands-on project was volunteering with the unique food bank Leket Israel, where we gleaned tomatoes from the fields to give to needy families. After only two hours we had picked nearly a ton of tomatoes, enough to feed some 500 families!

Our final project was visiting the ICEJ’s Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa. We cleaned up around the home and then spent time with survivors over lunch. It was wonderful to listen to their stories and to speak encouragement to them. Despite all that has happened to them, they are very warm and caring people, full of life and joy.

"I had an awesome experience meeting the Holocaust survivors," said Bernice from Australia. "I started talking to one lady and she took me to her apartment and offered beautiful hospitality. We were there to bless, but I was blessed at the way she just let me into her life."

The Arise summer tour also visited Yad Vashem, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs to hear lectures about Israel's history and the challenges the nation is facing today. We also heard biblical teachings from ICEJ staff members and our tour guides on how to live closer to Jesus, and about God’s love and plan for Israel.

"I am more motivated to pray for Israel based on the promises for Israel in the Bible and more hopeful for Israel’s future," said Els from Holland.
Dangerous Ground

BY DAVID PARSONS

The recent Levy Report delivered to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, which reaffirmed Israel's legal rights in Judea and Samaria, has reignited the national debate over the wisdom of retaining what has proven to be dangerous ground to hold on to. This debate was left smouldering in recent years because most Israelis realized there is no Palestinian peace partner right now, so why waste time and emotional energy-bickering over this issue.

During the Oslo era, this land dispute raged around the recipe of “land for peace,” which inherently put opponents of Oslo on the defensive by suggesting they were anti-peace. Many Israelis bought into Oslo in hopes a peace deal would save lives, even though Palestinian terrorism was on the increase. Opponents argued that the peace process was only endangering more Israeli lives.

The best insight I ever received on why so many Israelis were “fooled” by Oslo came from the late David Bar-Ilan – former editor-in-chief of The Jerusalem Post and senior policy adviser to Netanyahu in his first term as premier. He explained that during their centuries of exile, Jews were constantly threatened wherever they wandered. Largely landless, they instinctively learned to flee rather than stay and try to hold on to what little they did possess.

This instinct of placing self-preservation above all else, acquired during the painful Diaspora experience, is what drove Oslo. Yet David Bar-Ilan concluded that this debate, which he couched in terms of “land versus life,” had been rendered “academic” by Palestinian intransigence.

Today, this dispute continues but in a different context. It has more to do with maintaining Israel’s good relations with the United States, which is so crucial to Israel’s security, especially in light of the growing Iranian nuclear threat. So proponents of territorial concessions now offer the simplistic “land for centrifuges” formula.

But most Israelis know it would be a foolish move at present, as it would only make Israel a more vulnerable and inviting target given the Iranian threat and the rise of radical Islam amid the chaotic Arab Spring. Meanwhile, the true hawks among them say Israel has to retain all the land to defend itself and because the land belongs to the Jews, period!

The Jewish people indeed have a superior claim to sovereignty over all the Land of Israel, but by definition “sovereignty” includes the right to give land away. Through Oslo, Israel unfortunately impaired its own title — though not beyond repair. The Levy report represents an effort to reassert Jewish rights in the territories.

Yet the larger question here centers on the “land promise” – the fact that God vowed to give the Land of Israel to Abraham’s descendants as an “everlasting possession” (Genesis 17:8). This promise has never been truly fulfilled and it must be or God will prove to be untrustworthy, according to the teachings of the Apostles (e.g., Hebrews 6).

Now some Christians have so spiritualized the land promise that they say Abraham was actually meant to inherit the cosmos. Yet the Land of Israel is still a piece of real estate which can be ploughed and paved over like any other. And the Bible is clear that God meant a certain tract of land in the Middle East, even giving us several descriptions of its “metes and bounds!”

But many Christians argue that we should not get hung up on the “land question”; seeing it instead as a ‘non-essential’ doctrine of the faith and by no means as important as salvation.

Yet the land question matters greatly because it goes to the very character of God: Can He be trusted to keep His promises? Hebrews chapter 6 basically tells us that the same unchanging God who swore by an oath to Abraham to give them the Land of Israel (Psalm 105:7-15), likewise swore that Christ is our High Priest forever (Psalm 110:1-4). So those who say the land promise no longer matters to God are also suggesting He could change His mind about the blood of Jesus.

And that is dangerous ground for any Christian to be on! ☞

David Parsons serves as Director of the ICEJ Media Team in Jerusalem
It was early evening by the time we stopped again, assembling a makeshift picnic supper outside a Flagstaff grocery store. There we bumped into a Navajo man whose plea for change caught my attention.

“Sir,” he said, through his weary weather-beaten eyes, as I awkwardly explained that I had only a few quarters to spare, “I want to change!” At first I was skeptical, but we had enough food. Why not invite him to join us? No sooner had the conversation turned to Jesus, than we found quickly ourselves straddling another great divide. A second, younger, native American man stopped by and warmly greeted his friend, his arms riddled with the cultic symbols of a shaman’s tattoos. He too was a drifter, obviously hungry. He too was looking for company and a bite of fresh food.

Meanwhile, next to me our new found friend explained that he’d reached a dead end. He’d heard the gospel, but this time He was ready to step over the line. He wanted to give his life to the Lord.

Suddenly the ‘shaman’ jumped to his feet and began cursing us under his breath for suggesting that his kinsman ‘betray’ his tribe. A moment later he stormed off, outraged, without even a word of thanks for the food. Like the two thieves on the cross, they were both in equal need of forgiveness and both offered the same moment of grace. At the moment of decision, however, they chose two polar opposite paths.

As our quest continued in the weeks that followed it was hard to shake the image of the Continental Divide. Everywhere we went we saw a nation at a crossroads, increasingly divided over the Word of God. Whatever the issue: a Biblical view on the sanctity of life or the dignity of marriage or even the return of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland - the great divisions in our society increasingly reflect the fault lines of Scripture. We all want ‘change’ – in our own lives and in the life of our nation - but are we truly willing to recognize that it can only come from God?

This fall is decision time for America. We are approaching an election that will determine the character of this great nation for generations to come. We are at the watershed of history, standing on either side of a great ‘spiritual divide.’

In response, the ICEJ has been calling on our friends and supporters to join us in setting aside time to pray for our nation according to 1 Chronicles 7:14:

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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

The nation is hanging in the balance. Join the ‘Heal Our Land’ prayer campaign as together we unite to humble ourselves, seek God’s face and repent!

Pray for this Nation: www.icejusa.org/healourland

Get Involved: Invite the ICEJ speaking team to visit your local community. Call toll-free on: 1-800-379-3897.