Hope Under Fire

It was a tough way to end the year. In mid-November the Israeli Defense Forces began to take action to stop the escalation of rocket-fire from Gaza. As a barrage of 1,500 missiles threatened the lives of some four and a half million Israelis across southern and central Israel, the nation’s air force targeted several top Hamas military commanders and destroyed many of the terror militia’s rockets, underground launch sites, and weapons factories.

The rocket threat had barely subsided, however, when the Palestinian leadership flew to New York under the cover of the uneasy, Egyptian-brokered truce to demand that the United Nations recognize their claim to statehood.

The non-binding, but symbolic victory that followed on November 29th led to the UN General Assembly upgrading the status of ‘Palestine’ to that of a non-member state. It was an action that bypassed the Security Council, left the 1993 Oslo Peace Accords in tatters, and rewarded the Palestinian Authority’s ongoing refusal to engage in direct negotiations with Israel. As was the case with the UN’s 1947 Partition Plan (passed 65 years earlier on the very same day) the Palestinians once again demonstrated their unwillingness to come to terms with the right of the Jewish people to a state in their ancient homeland - within any borders.

As 2012 closes, the nation of Israel is under fire from all sides. And yet, in the midst of the turmoil of paralyzing rocket attacks, and the global rise of diplomatic hostility, Israel continues to experience daily miracles.

At the height of a week when more than one million Israeli civilians were confined to bomb shelters, schools were closed, and families fled north, ICEJ teams were on the ground helping needy Israeli citizens suffering the effects of these crippling attacks.

IN THE CITY OF ANGELS...

“The first place we went was the area that is considered the ‘front line’ in Kiryat Malachi (the City of Angels) since the neighborhood is on the edge of town facing Gaza. This is where the rocket made a direct hit a few days ago killing three people from different families....

“As we viewed the apartment which had been destroyed, there was a large group of police there on tour as well... Just as we were alongside one of the vehicles, we heard of the rocket strike on Jerusalem from the radio...
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-based ministry supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends.

We invite you to join us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by using the enclosed response slip 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: us.icej.org

ALTERNATIVE FEAST TOUR OPTIONS:

- **$2875**
  - FULL TOUR & FEAST REGISTRATION

- **$1395**
  - FEAST HOTEL & REGISTRATION PACKAGE ONLY

* Prices include full registration to the Feast of Tabernacles, but exclude flights

Women of the Word Study Tour
April 17th - 26th, 2013

This unique tour invites women to travel the Holy Land through the perspective of the great women of the Bible.
Cost: $3,594 (includes flights from Dallas).
ICEJ Events
TOURS, SEMINARS & SOLIDARITY EVENTS

On the Road
ICEJ speakers continued to travel throughout the United States, this year, enabling Christians to grow in their understanding of Israel and God's purposes for the Church in this generation. Our educational seminars impacted dozens of churches and colleges, including Oral Roberts University, where Dr. Carrie Burns spoke about the Holocaust in September, and Regent University, where US Director, Susan Michael, addressed the issue of modern anti-Semitism in November. Altogether, ICEJ speakers reached Christians in every part of the nation, from New York to California. If you missed us, why not consider inviting us to your local area in 2013?

At the Feast
The 2012 Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles was marked by a powerful opening night at Ein Gedi, where fierce winds combined with gentle rain to offer an unforgettable illustration of the 'rushing mighty wind' spoken of in Acts chapter 2. Other highlights included seeing a group of pro-Israel parliamentarians from 17 different nations take the stage and express their commitment to stand up for Israel within their legislatures back home. US Congressman Trent Franks from Arizona (pictured left), even joined the ICEJ’s own Feast pilgrims the next day to lead the US delegation in the annual Succot march through the streets of Jerusalem to the delight of the Israeli crowds.

Why not host an ICEJ speaker in your church or community next year? Call (615)895-9830
Laughter in Beit Jallah

"In Palestinian society there is a big rejection of disabled children," explains Burghard Schunkert, director of a ministry that has been caring for disabled youth in the Christian town of Beit Jallah for over a decade. This year the ICEJ partnered with ministry of Lifegate to help build a new facility on the western edge of Bethlehem. We can now "offer them new ways to live their lives," Schunkert said gratefully.

Hope for at-risk Teens

This year the ICEJ began sponsoring a group of 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. Most of the team members were small children when they made the long difficult journey to Israel as part of the “Operation Moses” emergency airlift in 1984.

"I was eight years old when I started my journey from Ethiopia to Israel via Sudan," recalled Erez Dezlin. “My little brother was two years old and my mother was also six months pregnant. We walked about 600 miles on foot.

We did not have much food with us to eat. Many families lost loved ones on the way, some died from hunger, thirst, diseases and some even were killed by robbers on the way... I am so glad that I finally made it and my dream to live in Israel became real.”

Today Erez is the supervising coach for the twelve youth soccer teams from the Ethiopian community in Rehovot and he has a new dream. He wants to help the Ethiopian Jews to integrate better into Israeli society and to give them hope and life skills through sports. Your generosity to the ICEJ this year, has enabled that dream to come one step closer to reality!

Reaching the Outcasts

Since the 1990s, Israel has become one of the central destinations for human trafficking with the majority of victims coming to Israel across the Sinai desert from Egypt. Over three thousand enslaved women are smuggled into Israel each year. Once the girls cross the border into Israel, their passports are confiscated, they are locked up in apartments and are ready to be sold. As a result ICEJ AID is currently working together with several local centers that care for these entrapped and abused women, fight for their unborn and battle for new laws that would stop human trafficking in Israel.

Anat (pictured) and her husband Yishai head up the ministry of Abundant Life, reaching out to women engaged in prostitution and offering special care to those who are pregnant. This year, we were privileged to provide funding for a new center where they provide manicures and pedicures for sex-workers giving them a chance to talk to someone who actually cares for them. Your support this year has enabled us to have a life-changing impact on those still trapped in this degrading form of modern slavery, offering them help they so desperately need.

Relief under Fire

In November a sudden escalation of Hamas rocket attacks from Gaza brought some 4.5 million Israelis within range of Iranian-sponsored missile fire. The ICEJ was quick to respond on the ground across southern Israel, 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 Netanaya.
**Planted in the Land**

The Embassy’s ongoing partnership with the Jewish Agency has enabled us to continue our sponsorship of the highly successful ‘Red Carpet’ program, enabling new immigrants to undergo a fast-track absorption process upon arrival. In addition, we’ve also sponsored a ‘mentoring’ program for new arrivals this year, which helps shepherd them through the many challenges of new life in Israel and provides ongoing support after making aliyah.

**Bringing the Lost Home**

After years of bureaucratic delays, members of India’s Bnei Menashe community received all the necessary approvals this year to begin their long-awaited journey to Israel. Expected to land sometime in December, the ICEJ-sponsored flight represents the last step on one of the longest journeys of all time; a journey that began some 2,700 years ago, when the forefathers of this ancient Israelite tribe were exiled from Israel in the midst of the Assyrian invasion.

The return of the Bnei Menashe is also a dramatic fulfillment of the promise of scripture in Isaiah 43:5, where God vows: “I will bring your descendants from the East.” What’s more, this first flight has been sponsored due to the kind generosity of ICEJ supporters and friends around the world; Christians who see that the modern ingathering of the Jewish people reflects the faithfulness of God to His Word. Over the course of more than three decades, the ICEJ has helped nearly 120,000 Jewish people come home to Israel. Thank you for your faithful support!

**Befriending Survivors**

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. 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.

In addition to our ongoing sponsorship of the nation’s first-of-its-kind assisted living facility for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa, we have also strengthened our adoption program this year, enabling Christians around the world to 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. Many Christians today say they would have risked their lives to help rescue Jews if they had lived during the Nazi genocide. Right now, we have the opportunity to help those who did survive but still struggle with its impact even in old age.
Facing Persecution

Last Christmas, Pastor Umar Mulinde was assaulted by radical Muslims with a very potent acid as he left his church in Kampala, Uganda. After vainly seeking adequate medical care for his severe facial burns in hospitals in Uganda and India, he was invited to Israel and admitted to Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv, known for its world-class treatment of burn victims.

Israel’s response to Pastor Mulinde, has been extraordinary, waiving the enormous medical bills that have piled up for his care and treating him just as if he were an Israeli victim of terror. The reason is that he is a Muslim convert to Christianity who was attacked by Islamic militants for sharing his faith and for teaching his congregation to love Israel.

Throughout the process of assisting the Mulinde family this year in Israel, the Embassy has been truly humbled by his courage, and example. In June, we were able to partner with the Knesset Christian Alliées Caucus in presenting a special briefing in the Knesset on the Islamist campaign of violence against Christians in sub-Saharan Africa and its impact on Israel and the region.

In addition, we were able to publish a short account of Pastor Mulinde’s powerful testimony, Facing Persecution. His story is the story of the Church of Jesus throughout the world: a Church that is experiencing increasing persecution, and yet, an increasing presence of the Spirit of God in the midst of trouble.

Holocaust Education

For the past seven years, the ICEJ has partnered with Israel’s Holocaust Memorial, Yad Vashem, assisting them in their mission to preserve the memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Nazi Holocaust, and to teach its universal lessons to future generations.

So, in January, ICEJ Executive Director, Dr. Jürgen Bühler, hosted a delegation of 70 prominent German and Austrian pastors and ministry leaders to mark the 70th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference: the infamous meeting of Nazi officials which plotted the “Final Solution of the Jewish Question.” The ICEJ also handed over a check for $60,000 to Yad Vashem’s Holocaust studies center to help sponsor a series of Pastor’s Seminars in the coming year.

Meanwhile, here in the US, the ICEJ joined Mrs Annette Lantos - the widow of the late US Congressman Tom Lantos - to mark Holocaust Remembrance Day at a Nashville-area Symposium in April. The event, chaired by former ICEJ Executive Director, Rev. Malcolm Hedding, raised some $3,000 towards the care of needy Holocaust survivors at the ICEJ’s assisted-living home in Haifa. It was just one of a number of Holocaust-related educational events held in both churches and colleges throughout the US in 2012.

Defending Christian Zionism

Replacement Theology is once again gathering traction in the Church. Christians, need to be equipped with the theological understanding to make an informed, balanced and biblically articulate defense of Israel. That’s why this year we launched a 16-part small group study series based upon Rev. Malcolm Hedding’s Foundational Teaching Series - a set of teaching materials that have been distributed in numerous languages across the world. With a 100-page study guide and 4 remastered teaching DVDs the Biblical Zionism Series will enable Christians to dismantle the theological myths that underpin the rising assault against Israel.

ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY AT: US.ICEJ.ORG/STORE
Daystar
At the heart of the Christian Embassy’s calling is the responsibility to proclaim the hope which flows from the restoration of Israel to all the people of the world. It is a prophetic message that is especially important for the Church, as it speaks of God’s faithfulness to His promises and also of the soon return of His son, Jesus. For more than 30 years now, the Lord has helped us to deliver this message of hope around the world.

During the course of 2011, the Lord placed a special burden on our hearts to spread this message to even more nations worldwide. We even started designing plans for a TV studio in our Jerusalem headquarters, with an initial goal to broadcast via the Internet! But just a few weeks into the New Year, the Embassy was invited to become a partner in Israel Now News, Daystar Television’s weekly half-hour Israel news program with millions of viewers tuning in from around the world.

Thanks to the generosity of our worldwide supporters we have been able to broadcast The ICEJ Report on Daystar throughout 2012. The 5-minute weekly show features ongoing ICEJ AID projects, relevant Bible teaching, and insight into current events; each week proclaiming the Word of God from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth!

Prayer
For two years now, the global family of the ICEJ has set aside one day a month to fast and pray for Israel, the Middle East and the ongoing work of the ICEJ. And our Isaiah 62 Prayer Initiative continues to gather momentum - a fact demonstrated by the packed morning prayer meetings at this year’s Feast of Tabernacles Celebration in Jerusalem.

In June, with the US Presidential election campaign already well underway, we also felt the urgency to call our American constituency to an additional season of focused prayer for this nation based on 2 Chronicles 7:14. The ICEJ’s Heal Our Land prayer campaign resulted in a regular series of prayer meetings throughout the Fall, both in the ministry’s USA offices and the wider community.

Arise
The ICEJ’s Young Adults ministry, Grafted has enabled over a thousand young people to receive God’s heart for the Jewish people by visiting Israel in the course of the last ten years. In June, the ICEJ appointed Jani Salokangas to take the ministry forward in the next decade under the new name Arise.

Immediately Jani and his team hit the road, organizing the first 477 Quest, a 477-kilometer bike trek from Metulla on the northern border to Eilat to raise funds for Israel’s disabled sports center at Ramat Gan. A few weeks later, 21 young adults from nine different countries arrived for the Arise Summer ‘Hands-On’ Tour, helping out in an immigrant absorption center, food bank and at the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors.
ON THE GROUND

Within 24 hours of the outbreak of the conflict, an ICEJ-sponsored relief team of nine volunteers was providing food, clothing, first aid kits, blankets, toiletries and shelter to those affected by the bombardment. Our team was also first on the scene to give humanitarian aid to families in the neighborhood of Kiryat Malachi, close to the Gaza border. Three of the six Israelis killed by rocket fire in November died there when a military-grade ‘Grad’ rocket slammed into their apartment building and demolished the top floor (see sidebar).

Throughout the days that followed, the ICEJ AID team continued working with a network of social welfare agencies and charitable partners to arrange for four buses of elderly people to be evacuated to temporary housing in assisted-living homes in Netanya and Haifa. Among the evacuees were a number of Holocaust survivors, five of whom were then able to find a safe haven in the ICEJ’s Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa.

These efforts to reach out to some of Israel’s most vulnerable communities did not go unnoticed. Even as the rocket’s rains down, the Embassy’s presence on the front line gained the attention of Israel’s television and print media; a symbol of hope that Israel’s Christian friends were standing strong in her support.

PILLAR OF DEFENSE

“The word ‘miracle’ is mentioned many times in the news,” said Yudit Setz, deputy director of ICEJ AID, explaining the Israeli response to recent events, “and God’s Hand has been on His people in a very special way.”

The most significant and astonishing aspect of the Hand of God was evident in the relatively small loss of Israeli life, especially given the strength and ferocity of the attacks. Much of that was due to Israel’s new ‘Iron-Dome’ anti-missile defense shield which achieved unprecedented success in shooting down over 400 rockets as they sped with their deadly payloads into the heart of densely populated civilian areas.

But that still doesn’t account for countless other miracles that saw hundreds of missiles fall harmlessly short of their intended targets. One such miracle reported at the height of the conflict, took place in Ashdod.

Perhaps it was no coincidence that the name given to the Israeli military initiative to combat the source of the Gaza rocket-fire was Operation Pillar of Defense - a direct reference to the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night that protected the Israelites during their exodus from Egypt and all throughout their wilderness wanderings.

As 2012 draws to a close, there is no question that Israel faces incredible challenges in the year ahead. But it is equally true that the God of the Bible is watching over them. And we can be sure that He neither slumbers, nor sleeps!