Enjoying the Feast of Tabernacles in Israel!

#ICEJFeast2017 #ICEJ #Israel #Jerusalem50 #PaisArena #GodisGood #FaithfulGod #Isaiah62PrayerInitiative
Dear Friends,

For many years, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) has been leading the way in hosting Christian pilgrims in the Land of Israel. The Feast of Tabernacles is the largest annual tourist event in Israel and regularly draws over 5,000 Christians from over 80 nations.

The USA Branch of the ICEJ recognized the need to bring even more Christians to Israel where their lives are often greatly impacted by the experience, and has spent the last two years developing an array of tours to Israel. They host an annual tour to the Feast of Tabernacles, pastors’ tours (Envision tour and conference and Israel Encounter tours), Young Adult tours (Israel Impact and Arise tours), and multiple church tours. ICEJ USA has hosted hundreds of pastors, leaders, and pilgrims of all ages. Yet the momentum we are experiencing right now is unprecedented!

The ICEJ’s pastors’ tours are particularly unique and sought after. These tours provide a level of teaching that is geared toward pastors and teachers with degrees in biblical studies, and covers the complex theological implications of the modern-day return of the Jewish people to their historic homeland. The biblical narrative comes alive with meaning and the leaders are able to connect what they know of the Bible with what they have seen and heard on the ground.

This month’s magazine highlights the various types of tours and how through them the ICEJ is impacting leaders and young adults alike with the understanding of the biblical significance of the modern State of Israel. Along the way, we are blessing and encouraging pastors and leaders, enhancing their ministry to thousands of people over the years.

Please remember this critical educational program of the ICEJ in your prayers and giving.

Yours in Christ,

Dr Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ President

PS: We are already gearing up for this year’s Feast, which will celebrate another grand anniversary: Israel’s 70 years of independence from the founding of the modern state. It would be truly great to welcome you this year here in Jerusalem!

COVER PHOTO: Miqedem band members at En Gedi, the Feast celebration in the desert.

FOR MAGAZINE ARCHIVES visit www.icejusa.org/wfj
CONTENTS

2017 FEAST OF TABERNACLES

COME AND SEE WITH THE ICEJ

YOUNG ADULT TOURS TO ISRAEL

ICEJ AID

HAIFA HOME UPDATE
The 2017 Feast of Tabernacles truly turned out to be a historical celebration. Its primary purposes were to commemorate Jerusalem’s liberation 50 years ago, and to celebrate her future promises as the city of God. This year’s Feast had the highest physical attendance in 10 years. Added to that were more than 500,000 viewers who tuned-in to the livestream coverage, and millions worldwide who watched the broadcast of Feast events on God TV and Visjon Norge. The ICEJ also received widespread positive coverage in the national Israeli media, testifying to our good standing in Israeli society and national consciousness.

Feast Highlights

Christians from more than 100 countries and as far away as the Pacific Island nations came to stand with the Jewish people and give a shout of praise to the God of Israel. Their voices were heard in the moonlit desert at Ein Gedi as Angus Buchan of South Africa roared out his Zulu-warrior pronunciation of “Amen,” and later quietly led thousands of people in an intimate time of prayer of repentance from unbelief while encouraging them to increase their faith in our God who does the impossible!

Onward from the lowest point on earth, we went up to Jerusalem to the Garden Tomb, where a record 2,200 pilgrims overflowed the garden to celebrate their Savior’s death and resurrection with communion. That evening, we moved the conference to Pais Arena, where the Togolese worship team excited the audience with its unique African flavor of dance and hymns to our God. The Fiji team presented a dynamic dance along with harmonious vocals that led thousands into the throne room of heaven to worship the King of kings!

Accomplished men and women of God spoke about God’s heart for Jerusalem, Israel, and the nations. We ended the conference in the heart of Jerusalem at the Tower of David inside the Old City walls for a powerful time of prayer and worship to Yeshua!

Honoring Israel's Heroes

On Israeli Night, following the colorful Jerusalem March where the ICEJ mustered the strongest Christian contingent among record Christian attendance, both Jew and gentile alike shared the joy of honoring Israel’s heroes. Foremost among these heroes was a handful of Israeli paratroopers who took part in liberating Jerusalem in 1967, returning Jewish sovereignty to the Western Wall.

Enduring Truths – Enduring Friendships

The unbroken string of the 38th annual ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles testifies to enduring Christian support and love for the Jewish people. This support is not capricious or conditional, but is based on the unchanging Word of God and has no expiration date. This is why Jewish singer, Shuli Natan, came to perform the classic victory song Jerusalem of Gold from 1967. This is why Christians stand when they hear HaTikva. And this is why you will see the ICEJ in the Fall of 2018 in Jerusalem, celebrating the 70th year from the founding of the modern State of Israel under the theme, “Dare to Dream.” We hope to see you this year in Jerusalem!
Christians from more than 100 countries and as far away as the Pacific Island nations came to stand with the Jewish people and give a shout of praise to the God of Israel.
Ein Gedi – Believe in God Who Does the Impossible!

The 2017 ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles got off to a powerful start Friday evening at the Ein Gedi Spa on the shores of the Dead Sea. Approx. 4,600 pilgrims from around the world gathered underneath the stars to worship Jesus and to hear a powerful message about faith by keynote speaker Reverend Angus Buchan from South Africa. Angus led the crowd in a prayer of repentance of unbelief, and for God to increase our faith in Him. Luke 1:37 states, “For nothing will be impossible with our God.”

Garden Tomb – Communion Service

Many of the world’s nations gave a shout to the Lord as worship leader Ray Ramirez took a roll call of the continents present at the Garden Tomb this morning. A whopping 2,200 Feast pilgrims were present for an event where 800 had been expected. Despite the large number of people, the service was a great blessing and enjoyable.

Pastors Santoro and Shalash, respectively from Jewish and Arab backgrounds, officiated communion in a show of brotherly love between Jews and Arabs. They reminded the Feast pilgrims that when Jesus endured the cross, “for the joy that was set before Him” (Hebrews 12:2), His joy was each one of us.
Opening Night in the City of God

More than 5,000 Christian pilgrims were present Saturday evening as the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles 2017 opened in Jerusalem’s Pais Arena. The evening began with the “Parade of Nations,” in which a representative from each country proceeded across the stage with their national flag and traditional costumes as their nation was announced.

Dr. Bühler spoke on the topic of Jerusalem as the city of God, and explained that God promised Jerusalem to the Jewish people for a reason. He said, “This program was decreed in heaven. If God makes an oath in heaven, there is nothing that will change that decree, no matter what any earthly government says.” He continued, saying, “There is a river flowing out of Jerusalem right now that wants to change the way you are living your life, and there is a day coming when this river will be so powerful that nations will come up to this city to receive of the power of God.” The evening climaxed with Steve Carpenter leading the pilgrims in singing, “There is a river whose streams make glad the city of our God.”

A Generation After the Heart of God

Eddie James, a legendary figure in American Gospel music, gave a musical rendition on the theme of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and God’s victory over death. Afterward, he had several young people share their powerful testimony of how Jesus rescued their lives that were filled with addiction and brokenness, and brought new life, full restoration, healing, deliverance, and freedom in Christ!

ICEJ Arise Director Jani Salokangas followed this by praying for the young people to have boldness to be representatives of the Kingdom of God to their nations and to their generation. ICEJ President Jürgen Bühler joined Salokangas on stage to pray for the youth who have a heart to be sent out to the nations from Jerusalem.
Rene Terra Nova/Barry Denison – Jerusalem Has No Expiration Date

The evening came to a dynamic conclusion with a message from Apostle Renê Terra Nova from Brazil, who delivered a dynamic message powerfully translated into English by ICEJ’s Vice President of Operations Barry Denison. “This is a city that knows God’s secrets,” he explained, before launching into an exposition of the prophetic role of Jerusalem and the role of each individual believer in carrying out the plans and purposes of God for Jerusalem and the world. “Jerusalem has no expiration date,” he declared, passionately exhorting Jerusalem’s importance. “He who fights against Jerusalem, fights God.”

In Memoriam

One evening, we honored Rabbi Benny Elon, the late leader of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus. His wife, Emuna, received an ICEJ award on Elon’s behalf and gave a heartfelt speech conveying the deep love and appreciation he had for Christian supporters of Israel. During her remarks, she said it was his early recognition of the shared beliefs and values in Jewish and Christian communities that had driven her husband to build a stronger alliance.

Nehemiah Award

Victor Schlatter and his wife, Elsie, have played an instrumental role in building the ICEJ in Oceania and mustering support for Israel from Pacific Island nations in the United Nations. Victor was this year’s recipient of the Nehemiah Award. For many years, he has organized and financed the participation of many Feast pilgrims from this region of the globe, especially Papua New Guinea.
Around the World Worship

The performers from Fiji drew the audience to their feet with their Island-style worship and dance. Steve Carpenter and his family sang a powerful declaration: “There is a river whose streams, make glad the city of our God.” Local Israeli band, Miqedem, brought a taste of Israeli culture. The African Togo worship and dance team thoroughly charmed the audience with their energetic and elegant worship songs in French. Eddie James and his band of young believers in Jesus led young and old into an inspiring time of worship to our God who delivers us from the things of this world and gives us new life in Christ!

ICEJ AID

The ICEJ has a broad portfolio of AID projects that lovingly and diligently provide care and support for many in Israel. Among these projects is a home for Holocaust Survivors, some of whom were present during Israeli night and even ended up dancing on the stage. The ICEJ presented financial gifts to support Aliyah and integration efforts by the Jewish agency for new immigrants in the Land, particularly Ethiopian Jews, more than 600 of whom the ICEJ has sponsored flights for this year alone. A deeply moving performance of young Ethiopians singing and dancing touched the hearts of many.

Prayer at the Heart of Jerusalem

The Tower of David located in the heart of Jerusalem inside the Old City walls was a most fitting venue for the Feast’s final assembly. Birds flew over the Tower of David as the sun shined down on hands lifted high in praise. People lined the walls, praying and interceding for Jerusalem, Israel, and the nations. ICEJ President Dr Jürgen Bühler opened the time of prayer with these encouraging words: “You can never pray too much. God wants to hear your voice.” He emphasized the importance of prayer by saying, “If God is not building the house, then the builders are building in vain.” Many prayers were lifted up to the heart of our Father in heaven from the heart of His city, Jerusalem! 😇

This Year in Jerusalem

The ICEJ thanks all its staff, volunteers, and partners for their tireless work on creating the setting for a vibrant and inspirational Feast. But most of all, we would like to thank all the pilgrims who came from the ends of the earth to honor their Lord in the city of God.

This year in Jerusalem!
Lisa Brys had learned about the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot in Hebrew) and knew about God’s call to Israel to “appear before the Lord” three times a year (Deuteronomy 16:16). She had studied about God’s command for Israel to “build booths” and “dwell in them for seven days” (Leviticus 23) in remembrance of Israel’s time wandering in the desert in tents after God had brought them out of the land of Egypt. She knew her arrival with 90 other pilgrims from the United States and Canada was a dress rehearsal of sorts for a future time when the prophet Zechariah declared that “everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles” (Zechariah 14:16).

But nothing could prepare her for what she experienced when she joined the ICEJ for the 2017 USA Israel Tour on October 4–15, 2017. As Brys entered the Old City of Jerusalem for the first time in her life, she saw with her own eyes thousands upon thousands of Jews flooding the city to celebrate this Feast and worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—just as God had commanded in Leviticus 23. “It was like seeing my Bible come alive!” Brys said.

These pilgrims from across the United States and Canada joined more than 6,000 others from around the world to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a united Jerusalem, bless Israel and her people, and tour the land of the Bible.

The tour began with a powerful worship service on the shores of the Dead Sea in Ein Gedi with a message by Angus Buchan who challenged those present not to doubt God for the impossible. They visited Masada—the last stronghold held by Jews who refused to submit to Roman occupation—and Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were first discovered in 1946. During their time in Jerusalem, pilgrims walked the Via Dolorosa, had the opportunity to pray at the Western Wall, and took in a breathtaking view of the Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives.

A powerful moment during the pilgrim’s time in Jerusalem was when ICEJ USA Outreach Director Michael Hines taught from the Southern Steps which may have been where Jesus taught. This 200-foot-wide flight of ancient stone stairs led to the main entrances of the Temple Mount in Jesus’ time.
As tour participants sat on the steps listening intently, Hines reminded them of how Jesus quoted Psalm 118, possibly from these same steps, just after entering Jerusalem for the feast of Passover before his crucifixion: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:22–24, emphasis added).

Hines said, “Jesus came in a season when the Jewish people wouldn’t see him so that he could take, on their behalf, the sins of the whole world. The chief priests and elders to whom Jesus was speaking that day would have known exactly what Jesus was saying: ‘Your rejection of me is the doorway to the reconciliation of the world.’ This is the day the Lord has made!”

The group shared a powerful time of prayer for the people of Syria and the entire Middle East while overlooking the border of Syria and Israel, led by ICEJ USA Director Susan Michael. On the final night, USA pilgrims were treated to a dinner in the Old City of Jaffa on the shores of the Mediterranean near Tel Aviv.

Jose Cano and his wife, Bonnie, were part of the ICEJ USA tour. One of their most memorable experiences was in the north at the Jordan River. “While Michael was talking, Bonnie was called by the Holy Spirit and walked in to be baptized with her clothes on (and her cell phone)” Cano recalled. “To me that was the best part of the trip—to see the Holy Spirit at work!”

The Canos’ said they loved meeting many Christians who love Israel from all over the world at the Feast in Ein Gedi, at the Pais Arena, and during the Jerusalem March. “A trip to Israel with the ICEJ is life transforming,” Cano said. “I couldn’t dream of any better way.”

“My time in Israel on the USA Feast Tour was the most amazing experience I have ever had and I will never be the same—because now I know the biblical and historical truth,” Brys said. “The ICEJ staff, accommodations, places we went, and food were beyond exceptional!”

Brys returned home from Israel profoundly changed, and with a longing to tell others. “I can’t wait to tell everyone because every Christian (especially pastors) needs to taste and see!”

Roseanne Jackson (left) on the Jerusalem March.

It is no coincidence that as Jesus quoted this Psalm, hundreds of thousands of Jews would have been singing this same “theme song” of Passover, perhaps climbing these steps where Jesus was teaching: “I will praise you, for you have answered me and become my salvation,” and “Save now, I pray, O LORD” (Psalm 118:21, 25).

Another highlight for many USA delegates was the annual Jerusalem March through the streets of the Old City of Jerusalem. Joining Christians from more than 100 countries, participants from the United States had the opportunity to not only represent America and declare their love and solidarity with Israel, but to look Jewish men and women in the eyes and tell them, “You are not alone!” and “We are praying for you!”

From Jerusalem, the group traveled north to the Galilee, visiting sites such as Tel Dan, Megiddo, and Capernaum. Bram Maas, the marketing director for ICEJ USA and one of this year’s Feast Tour leaders, led a beautiful time of worship at the Mount of Beatitudes overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

Karen Engle is an editor and writer for the ICEJ USA.

For information on this year’s USA Feast Tour, visit www.icejusa.org/feast-tour
Tour Israel and Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles

Presented by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

September 21 - October 2, 2018

Travel to Israel for the Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles and tour the land of the Bible. Join thousands of Christians from more than 80 nations to worship the King of kings in Jerusalem! There is no better time to visit Israel than during this Feast of the Lord!

For a brochure and more information, please contact us at:
ICEJ USA • PO Box 332974 • Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2974
www.icejusa.org/feast-tour • (866) 393-5890 or email us at tours@icejusa.org
It was a cold, damp, February day in Jerusalem deep beneath the ancient City of David. After clambering through a small hidden door in the hillside, we huddled together in two separate shifts in the small, dimly lit underground chamber, dodging the drips of water running down the iron beams of the protective roof over our heads.

Our host was the famed Israeli archaeologist Eli Shukron, a man who has been at the center of some of the most sensational findings uncovered in ancient Jerusalem over the course of the past two decades. We'd first met by chance over a cup of coffee in the Golan Heights in early January and I'd told him about our efforts to bring pastors, ministry leaders and their spouses on life-changing study tours to Israel. His response was to offer to help.

The following month on the next Israel Encounter pastors' tour, I found myself, together with a group of 45 Baptist pastors and their wives, listening intently as Eli spoke of the highlights of his career: the discovery of the ancient Jebusite water fortress that protected the Gihon Spring in the days of David and Solomon, and the accidental finding and excavation of the first-century Pool of Siloam, immortalized by Jesus in John 9 and which, for so many years, was believed to have been lost to history.

"But this ..." he declared as he reached for a small key in his pocket, his voice trailing away as he unlocked the protective tin casing that shielded his latest discovery to reveal the highlight of a career filled with highlights: a small rough-shaped stone pillar set back behind the carved ancient bedrock upon which we were standing.

"You've heard of the First Temple?" he asked. "This is Temple Zero." This small sacred area has been positively dated back almost 4,000 years—to the time of Genesis when the enigmatic Melchizedek was king and priest of the "Most High God" in what was known then as the small hilltop fortress of Salem. Alongside the altar, there are niches carved in the rock for the slaughter of sacrificial animals, a wine press, and an olive press.

This is the place, Eli suggests, where Melchizedek greeted Abraham after the rescue of Lot with "bread and wine" in Genesis 14, and an event to which the New Testament writer refers at length in Hebrews 7. "We're in the beginning of monotheism," suggested Eli. We read of Jacob worshipping God by setting up a pillar at Bethel some decades later in Genesis 28. There's no reason not to believe that Melchizedek was worshipping God in the same way.

"How did Jacob worship God? He set up a pillar that said this was the house of God. He anointed it with olive oil, the same things that we have here. So, we have the First Temple built by King Solomon, Second Temple Nehemiah, Zerubbabel ... but what was before? Melchizedek. Who was Melchizedek? High priest. So, if you have a high priest, which temple? Temple Zero. But this temple was never destroyed."

The archeological record suggests that this ancient altar and sacrificial area was buried in the time of King Hezekiah—the righteous king who removed all alternative places of worship in and around Jerusalem. This small standing stone set up as a pillar to be "the house of God" appears never to have been broken down, just covered up and forgotten. And throughout all the destructions and conquests of Jerusalem that followed, it remained that way for thousands of years. That was until 2010. "I didn't plan to come here to find something," Eli admitted with a shrug. "I just did the excavation."

As 2018 begins, we are embarking on our third year of the Israel Encounter program. In that time, nearly 400 ministry leaders, Bible school students, pastors, and their spouses have traveled with us to Israel to learn more about the land, the people, and the enduring covenantal promises God has made to this unique, peculiar nation. With your help and continued support we are actively training more leaders, planning more trips, and seeking to expand this work to reach hundreds more in the coming year.

"You are reading the Bible all your life," Eli concluded, "but then you understand now what it means—the Bible talking and what we are finding. This is the way of God."

And the same is true for those who take the time to travel with us to Israel. The greatest treasures of Scripture are there to be uncovered, if only we would make the effort to show up.
“Young adults thrive on action and intrigue, and the Israel Impact Tour fits the bill!”
- Jarod, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

HIGHLIGHT #1
Reawakening millennials’ biblical faith

“Are you ready to see an amazing view?” Pastor Jerry Dirmann asked the Israel Impact Tour group as we made our way to the top of Masada.

Not much could prepare the students for the majesty of Masada, the sprawling mountaintop fortress built more than 2,000 years ago by King Herod. The young adults hiked straight up the “Roman ramp”—a trail with sharp switchbacks—in half an hour. At the summit, our group gathered together and read prophecies from the Bible that have come to pass, while sitting in an ancient synagogue. Throughout Masada we viewed dozens of ruins, many decorated with detailed mosaics and frescoes. History and heritage kept tumbling out of the stonework wherever we went in this archaeological wonderland.

Dirmann has spent more than 10 years guiding groups through Israel, and for ICEJ USA’s pilot Israel Impact Tour, the teaching times reawakened biblical faith for the millennials through in-depth research and study. There is something dynamic about Dirmann’s teaching, which is found in the way he marries history, faith, and archaeology, or the way he lights up when reading passages from the Scriptures that he can prove actually happened in specific locations.

As the students toured Israel from the southern Red Sea of Eilat to the Golan Heights in the north, they found the entire country to be young adult friendly —lively and colorful, adventurous, and breathtaking.

In Jerusalem, we spent the better part of four days exploring the Old City. Our last stop was at the Western Wall tunnels, a series of hidden passages that peel back layers of history to reveal the full length of the Western Wall from the Herodian period. The students were amazed to...
learn that the same King Herod who built the mountaintop fortress at Masada had also engineered the grand expansion of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

While enjoying the panoramic view overlooking the Temple Mount, Dirmann offered Bible passages and historical events to illustrate why this majestic city sparkling beneath us has remained, for thousands of years, the most ardently loved and hotly contested real estate in the world.

“I will never forget the experience of hearing from a Holocaust Survivor at Yad Vashem.”
- Mike, Tucson, Arizona

HIGHLIGHT #2
Raising up advocates for Israel

“What would you take if you had 10 minutes to pack up your life?” asked 84-year-old Holocaust Survivor Rena Quint. The Israel Impact students thought deeply and began to share their answers. “Photos,” “cash,” “jewelry,” and “food” called out the young adults at Quint’s encouragement.

“I don’t know how much any of these items would have done for you,” Quint told the students. “But instead of the pictures, maybe you would want to take a baby, or an old grandmother?”

With the number of Holocaust Survivors dwindling daily, the Israel Impact Tour featured Quint as a special guest speaker with the goal of illuminating the Holocaust and its evil quest to destroy European Jewry.

Quint’s mother and brothers were murdered in Treblinka. Her father, first sent for slave labor, was later torn from Quint and killed. When the British liberated Bergen-Belsen on April 15, 1945, Quint was on the brink of death.

During her hour-long testimony at Yad Vashem, Quint charted the many lifetimes’ worth of evil she encountered before reaching the United States at the age of 10. But she also emphasized she has since lived a good life.

Israel Impact student Abbey said, “I learned so much about the history of Israel and anti-Semitism. More importantly, I learned how to use the facts of Israel’s past and present to defend the truth about it.”

Abbey, who considers herself a strong pro-Israel advocate, concluded, “I think that the Israel Impact Tour instilled in me the importance of being understanding and being passionate for what I believe in. Before I went on the trip, I felt a spark to learn more about Israel. Now that I returned to the United States, that spark has ignited into a large flame to learn more and be a Christian advocate for Israel!”

To learn about the upcoming June 18–29, 2018 Israel Impact Tour itinerary please visit: www.israelimpacttour.com
Adventuring through the Holy Land of Israel for 10 days with 33 Christian young adults, from 8 different nations, was the perfect combination for an unforgettable experience with God!

These young adults were led by our ICEJ Arise Director, Jani Salokangas, in serving communities and learning about the conflicts and biblical perspectives on Israel, all while enjoying the Land of Israel and its people.

Up north, at the Sea of Galilee, the Arise team picked up one ton of trash in a poor Orthodox Jewish neighborhood. The mayor made an appearance personally thanking the Arise Team members for their diligent and humble service. The next stop was Capernaum, where Jaako from Finland shared, “I had a powerful encounter with God as I sat near the Sea of Galilee in Capernaum.” It was in that moment that Jaako realized that he was in the very place where Jesus walked on water, preached, healed the sick, and performed many other miracles.

Riding through the Golan Heights in Tomcars, the group stopped near the Syrian border and talked with a border patrolman, who encouraged them to educate themselves on the situation in the Middle East. They ventured on to the desert, where they spent the night worshipping God under the stars. Back in Jerusalem, they painted several rooms of the Israeli Goldstein Youth Village School for immigrant children in need, using about 27 gallons of paint.

God moved powerfully in the hearts of these young adults, as they served, learned, and adventured through the Land of Israel. One miracle God performed was that one of the participants had forgotten his passport and was almost sent home, but by God’s grace he was finally allowed into Israel without his passport! Another beautiful miracle was that three participants were baptized during the trip in the land where Jesus was baptized!

The ICEJ Arise Team was privileged and excited to lead this group of young adults around the Land of Israel, and pleased to report that many returned home with incredible breakthroughs, a renewed purpose for their lives, and a heart for God’s people in Israel! Arise is a life-changing trip for many young adults. We look forward to having many more join us for the Arise Summer Tour 2018.

To learn about the upcoming July 10–20, 2018 Arise Summer Tour, please visit: www.israelimpacttour.com
ICEJ
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

2 Young Adult TOURS TO ISRAEL

See the Bible come alive! // Tours for ages 18–30

Israel Impact Tour
12 Day Tour // June 18–29, 2018
The Israel Impact Tour is our amazing, power-packed 12-day young adult tour to Israel—the land of the Bible. This longer tour is uniquely designed for maximum spiritual impact on your life while having a tremendous, fun experience in Israel. This tour, that originates with a group flight from the USA, is being led by Susan Michael, ICEJ USA Director, and Pastor Jessica Harkins, The Rock in Hesperia, California.

Arise Summer Tour
10 Day Tour // July 10–20, 2018
Join an international group of young adults for our amazing cross-cultural young adult tour of Israel. Travel with us for 10 exciting days of outrageous fun as we explore the land of the Bible and show God's love for the people through practical outreach projects. This tour, that originates in Israel, is being led by Jani Salokangas, ICEJ Arise Director in Jerusalem.

Contact ICEJ USA Young Adults Coordinator Peter Ecenroad at peter.ecenroad@icejusa.org

www.israelimpacttour.com (888)772-7732 ext. 742
COMFORTING THREATENED COMMUNITIES IN SOUTH ISRAEL
DELIVERING TWO BOMB SHELTERS

BY BIRTE SCHOLZ AND AARON HECHT

About 100 pilgrims participated in the special Feast bus tour of ICEJ AID to deliver two transportable bomb shelters to embattled Israeli communities next to Gaza. “In times of crisis the feeling of being alone is most depressing for Israelis,” Rabbi Bowman, long-time friend and partner of the ICEJ, explained. “But it is a great comfort for them when they find refuge in shelters given by Christians from all over the world who love and support them.”

Security Situation
The head of security of the Eshkol region briefed the group about the security situation along the Gaza border. “We face two big threats: missiles and terror tunnels, dug under the border stretching over 100 kilometers (25 miles),” he explained. “We are dependent on shelter donations like yours to ensure that the hundreds of child and adult evacuees are safe here.”

Pilgrims were also told by kibbutz residents that although it is difficult to stay there under the threats of rockets and terror attack tunnels, there is a need for such frontier communities to defend Israel’s borders and maintain their long-term viability.

Many pilgrims who participated in the trip said they came away with a new appreciation for the problems that residents of these border communities face, as well as a new determination to support them in prayer and every other way.

Thank you for considering giving to the ICEJ’s “Israel in Crisis” projects.

CANADIAN COUPLE DONATES VITAL EQUIPMENT TO MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Grant and Roberta Kurian of Manitoba, Canada, figure strongly among donors this year, generously donating their second ambulance, a Mobile Intensive Care Unit, and a First Responder Medicycle to Israeli Magen David Adom.

From left: ICEJ AID Director Nicole Yoder, ICEJ Canada National Branch Director Donna Holbrook, CFMDA Israel President Anne Ayalon, and donors Grant and Roberta Kurian.
Nights in Jerusalem are cold now, but my black fleece feels snug as I approach the jump-off point for the night patrol. We’ve been told to wear all black, so as not to stand out in the night. I am rendezvousing with ICEJ AID Director Nicole Yoder before meeting up with “T,” our liaison officer. “T” is part an elite volunteer police unit, comprised of both active and former security personnel. This unit serves as a ready reserve for Israel’s law enforcement and Border Police. The volunteer unit is greatly appreciated for its valuable contributions and rapid response times, and tonight we are privileged to observe them in action.

Go, Go, Go!
Beit Shemesh, in the Judean foothills, is tonight’s operational zone, not far from where David slew Goliath. “If you need to go to the bathroom, now is the time to g—” says “T,” but someone else steals the “go” out of her mouth and yells, “Go, go, go, go!” There’s been “an event,” as the phrasing goes here. We jump back into our vehicle. We have no idea to where we’re headed and what is awaiting us: A terrorist incident? An infiltration attempt? A crime? But we are underway, accelerating aggressively, trying to keep up with the blue flashing lights charging ahead of us on the night roads of Beit Shemesh. The engine of our 4 x 4 is heaving and the brakes screech as “T” deftly jerks the vehicle in and out of car clusters to follow the path opened by the blue lights and sirens ahead of us. Still, we have a hard time keeping up. “T” manages to keep contact, choosing rather straight trajectories through numerous roundabouts.

The crime scene is busy when we arrive, with onlookers coming out to see what’s going on, and regular and volunteer police searching for bullets. There has been a shooting. We learn that one man has been shot in the leg and another in the gut in a drug-related showdown. The suspect has fled the scene. A member of the volunteer police unit later comes over to brief us on how the volunteer unit was instrumental in apprehending the fleeting suspect.

Stand Down
At the end of the night, we hand over high-end bullet- and knife-proof vests sponsored by ICEJ AID. The members of the unit are visibly grateful and excited to be receiving this equipment, which will enable them to remain on the frontlines with greater confidence and protection. Nicole Yoder and I are then driven back to the comfort of our homes. I am thankful to know that the unit will be going out again the next night, upholding the law and saving lives. 🙏
A MUSEUM OF MEMORIES

BY KAYLA ELLINGSWORTH

The Holocaust museum on the lower level of the Haifa Home provides a way for thousands of people to hear the stories of the Survivors without the residents having to retell their horrific experiences over and over again. The museum begins with heart-wrenching quotes from the residents of some of their experiences during the Holocaust. “The Jews were humiliated, stripped of their clothes, stripped of their dignity as humans, and were made to feel like worthless creatures,” our tour guide began. As we continued through the museum, we read story after story of the cruel treatment of these precious people. One resident had a terrifying experience where guards pushed her face into boiling water and then laughed at her.

Heartbroken and deeply touched, we continued to the end of the museum where we read a Bible verse written on the exit door from Psalm 23:4 “Even though I walk through the valley of death, I will not fear, for God is with me.” After participants received a small taste of what these Jews suffered through, the exhibit ended with a ray of hope in our God who never leaves nor forsakes us.

Many visitors come to the Haifa Home, including students, Israeli police, and guests from around the world. The museum gives visitors the opportunity to face the reality of the horrific events of the Holocaust, but also the reality of the hopeful stories that these Survivors are now being cared for with great love and compassion at the Haifa Home!

A FEAST TO REMEMBER

Coming to the Feast is no small task for elderly Holocaust Survivors, who must travel two hours to Jerusalem, enjoy hours of celebrating throughout the night, and then travel another two hours by bus back home to Haifa. Yet, they keep coming year after year. They enjoy coming to the Feast because they feel great hope and love from the many Christians from around the world who come to Jerusalem to show their love and support to Israel and the Jewish people.

For the Holocaust Survivors, Israeli night began with a reception, where they enjoyed refreshments and the opportunity to meet the staff and leadership of the ICEJ. The evening ended with many of them dancing, and some even stepped on stage to dance and sing! They returned to Haifa with love and joy in their hearts!

FOREST OF LIFE PROJECT

Many Israelis, churches, and nations have donated money to purchase an olive tree in honor of the Holocaust Survivors. Their names will figure on a display of the names of the people that have contributed to the Forest of Life project.

To plant a tree go to www.icejusa.org/forestoflife

ADOPTING A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

Andres and Uricke Schilling adopted a Holocaust Survivor named Naomi. This couple from Germany was inspired to adopt a Survivor for several reasons. Andres grew up with a grandfather, family, and friends who showed great interest in supporting and helping Holocaust Survivors. Uricke was inspired to help after she saw the ICEJ in Auschwitz. She explains, “We are thankful for the ICEJ helping the Holocaust Survivors and boldly sharing their faith.”

PARTNER WITH US

You can also adopt a Holocaust Survivor! For more information, please email: icejusa@icejusa.org
The attendees were equipped during a two-day seminar, with accompanying manual and classes consisting of such themes as, The Promise: Israel’s Past; The People: Israel’s Present; Prophecy: Israel’s Future; and The Cross: Israel’s Glory. Some of the places in Israel that were thoroughly explored were Mount Moriah, Tel Dan, Masada, the Southern Steps, the City of David, the Pool of Siloam, and the Kidron Valley.

Much of what was covered was the ICEJ’s unique approach on teaching about biblical Zionism that not only gives a greater insight to these locations and Jesus’ ministry, but can help shape an understanding of God’s everlasting covenant with His land and His people. This unique way of teaching has been laying foundations for pastors and leaders for more than 20 years; it’s now time to train others to do the same.

The success and momentum of the Israel tours is exciting! We are looking forward to seeing what the future holds as more generations are raised up with an understanding of God’s heart for His people and the Land of Israel.

For more information on tours to Israel, visit our website www.icejusa.org or call our office at (615) 895-9830.
YOUR ISRAEL ANSWER:

Is It Safe to Visit Israel?

By Susan Michael, ICEJ USA Director

Visitors Favor Israel
Tourists and business leaders alike flock to Israel. GLOBES, Israel’s financial daily, reports that pilgrimages, tours, vacations, and leisure bring the highest numbers of travelers, but due to Israel’s innovative climate, 11 percent of visitors come for business reasons. Apple, IBM, Intel, Google, and Microsoft deem Israel safe enough to invest multiple millions of dollars building R & D facilities in Israel. From India to Indonesia, the United States to the United Kingdom, from Nigeria to the Netherlands, and China to Chile, tourists flood tiny Israel—with a population of only 8.7 million. Tel Aviv, with its vibrant nightlife, and Jerusalem, with its holy sites, are just two examples of Israel’s cities, towns, and villages full of manifold things to do, see, and experience.

Tourists Feel Safe
The 24/7 news cycle often reports Israel in a negative light. While visitors know that terrorism lurks on Israel’s borders, they refuse to abandon their exciting plans to visit Israel. Most tourists feel safe in Israel—safer than in parts of their own cities and countries. Tour companies and the Israeli government maintain ongoing dialog regarding the safety of visitors. To top it off, the welcome visitors receive from Israelis is unparalleled. All Israelis are hyper-vigilant when it comes to security, but their intense celebration of life is evident everywhere in their daily lives and festivals.

Israel’s Tourism Increasing
First-time and returning visitors confirm the popularity and safety of Israel. Tourism to Israel is at an all-time high for 2017, with numbers some 25–30 percent higher than in 2016. The Ministry of Tourism notes that in 2016, first-time visitors reached 58 percent with 42 percent returning. Other 2016 statistics indicate that 56 percent of tourists were Christians made up of 41 percent Catholic, 26 percent Protestant and 22 percent Russian Orthodox. The Ministry also notes that 2,000 celebrities, opinion leaders, and tourist agents visited in 2016.

Tiny Israel, Lots to Do
Since Jerusalem is Israel’s capital city containing the Western Wall, Judaism’s holiest site, 82 percent of all tourists visit the Holy City. The coastal city of Tel Aviv-Jaffa is next in line at 67 percent, with its modernity, outstanding restaurants, and beaches. Conde Nast magazine names Tel Aviv one of the world’s top travel destinations. The Dead Sea, Tiberias, and the Sea of Galilee are also popular. No matter what your interests, Israel likely has it: snorkeling, parasailing, snow skiing, archaeology, museums, hiking, concerts, churches, and synagogues.

Millions of first-time and returning visitors and 90+ airlines flying in and out of Tel Aviv say YES! It is safe to visit Israel!

VISIT US AT

www.IsraelAnswers.com

and get your question about Israel answered!
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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.ACLFORISRAEL.ORG
OR CONTACT JAIME FUSCO AT JAIME_FUSCO@ICEJUSA.ORG

American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACL1) is a project of the US Branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ)
HELP ICEJ BRING MORE PASTORS AND YOUNG ADULTS TO ISRAEL. Their lives and ministries will never be the same!

Send your pastor with ICEJ to Israel on either Israel Encounter educational tours or the annual Envision Pastors’ and Leaders’ Conference tour.

Send your young adult with ICEJ to Israel on either the Israel Impact Tour or Arise Summer Tour.

“After 46 years of being a Christian and 32 years a pastor, this trip has given me an even greater appreciation and excitement about my faith and the Bible. Excellent!”
Keith Vaughan

“Being on this tour has been amazing! It has given me a deeper understanding about being an advocate for Israel. I’m now planning to volunteer full-time at an Aliyah absorption agency in Israel with the goal of serving for at least three years.”
Dana

Your donation to our tours program enables us to assist more pastors and young adults to experience Israel and have an encounter with God that will impact their lives forever.

www.icejusa.org/tours