Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that the Feast of Tabernacles was again a blessed time. An Israeli couple that has attended almost every Feast since 1980 said, “For us this was the best Feast team ever!” Of course, it is difficult to compare all the past Feasts, but I know that God was among us in a unique way this year.

During the Feast we heard Pastor Enoch Adeboye speak about the miracles of God that are taking place in Africa and saw the stadium filled with kneeling Christians responding to his call to repentance. We heard Pastor Chow’s call for unity and learned about Daniel Kolenda’s family history—these were inspiring and impacting moments. Worship teams from Africa, Taiwan, Israel, and America led us into the presence of God and made us all feel like heaven was touching earth.

God blessed us with one of the largest attendances in our history. Over 7,000 people—including some 800 Israelis on Israeli guest night and more than 1,000 local believers—attended this year’s Feast.

Right after the Feast, we went to the southern border. Constant explosions just a few miles away reminded us about the ongoing confrontation between Egypt and ISIS in the Sinai Peninsula. Israel had just experienced a wave of attacks from Gaza, so we were there to donate another six bomb shelters to the region.

Most touching was hearing the head of the local community, Mayor Gadi Yarkoni: “For us, this is Gan Eden (Paradise). We and our children will stay here no matter what happens.” I was particularly moved as I learned that he lost both legs when a rocket exploded between them in the 2014 Gaza war. He did not lose hope for the region or for achieving peace with his Palestinian neighbors. What a testimony this was for me of how to keep hoping in the midst of tremendous challenges. I was particularly moved as I learned that he did not lose hope for the region or for achieving peace with his Palestinian neighbors. What a testimony this was for me of how to keep hoping in the midst of tremendous challenges. I was particularly moved as I learned that he lost both legs when a rocket exploded between them in the 2014 Gaza war. He did not lose hope for the region or for achieving peace with his Palestinian neighbors. What a testimony this was for me of how to keep hoping in the midst of tremendous challenges. I was particularly moved as I learned that he lost both legs when a rocket exploded between them in the 2014 Gaza war. He did not lose hope for the region or for achieving peace with his Palestinian neighbors. What a testimony this was for me of how to keep hoping in the midst of tremendous challenges. I was particularly moved as I learned that he lost both legs when a rocket exploded between them in the 2014 Gaza war. He did not lose hope for the region or for achieving peace with his Palestinian neighbors. What a testimony this was for me of how to keep hoping in the midst of tremendous challenges. I was particularly moved as I learned that he lost both legs when a rocket exploded between them in the 2014 Gaza war. He did not lose hope for the region or for achieving peace with his Palestinian neighbors. What a testimony this was for me of how to keep hoping in the midst of tremendous challenges. I was particularly moved as I learned that he lost both legs when a rocket exploded between them in the 2014 Gaza war. He did not lose hope for the region or for achieving peace with his Palestinian neighbors. What a testimony this was for me of how to keep hoping in the midst of tremendous challenges. I was particularly moved as I learned that he

Finally, thank you for standing with us in prayer. Please consider joining the US Branch’s tour to next year’s Feast of Tabernacles. We are already planning for a special time of celebration and impact!

Blessings to you from Zion,

Dr Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ President

COVER PHOTO:
2018 Feast of Tabernacles Celebration

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CONTENTS

4 2018 FEAST OF TABERNACLES

10 INSIGHTS ON ISRAEL

12 THE TWELVE TRIBES OF MODERN ISRAEL

16 ICEJ USA 2018 FEAST TOUR

20 GAZA BORDER UPDATE
The Feast of Tabernacles is a time to celebrate and give thanks for the harvest. But it is also a time to look back. We just finished yet another amazing Feast, and we would like to share some of the moments we look back at with joy and which continue to fuel our excitement in God. Our hope and desire is for you to join us anew, or for the first time, in 2019.
Spiritual Wellspring at the Shores of the Dead Sea

Whether you are a Feast veteran or a brand-new arrival in Israel, Ein Gedi is the place to be the first night of the Feast of Tabernacles. The excitement, expectations, and blessing that are part of this modern-day classic is unrivaled. Each year we gather together in the desert at Ein Gedi at the beginning of the Feast of Tabernacles to share a meal, pray, and worship God together. The Exodus story comes alive and helps us imagine what it was like to be camped in the wilderness.

Catching Dreams at the Empty Tomb

Hervé Datro of the Ivory Coast stirred the crowd, stating, “Our big dream is of heaven, not of earth. . . . Without Jesus your dream cannot be accomplished.” Echoing Pastor Khoury’s purposeful declaration of the “God who keeps His covenant with Israel,” Datro pointed out the debt Christians owe the Jewish nation: “I dream of heaven. I dream of the restoration of the house of David . . . . I am because Israel was.” In the second service, he was followed by Juha Ketola who boldly declared: “I want to live for the glory of Jesus.” He then discussed the importance of living for Jesus, underscoring the choice between living a life in the flesh or in the Spirit.

Download audio of Feast seminars, speakers, and events at www.icej.store

A Breakthrough Year for Israel—Evening Celebrations

Anointed speakers and performers from Israel and around the world set the tone for festive and insightful nights at the Pais Arena in Jerusalem. On the performance side, the audience saw and heard the powerful pulses of Eddie James’ young performers, who drew energy from the powerful Bible Scriptures they declared with determination for the promises about Israel.

Led by Shiloh Ben Hod and Jamie Hilsden, Miqedem added contemporary Israeli music solidly planted in Scripture to this year’s Feast. It was a musical experience with distinct Israeli flavor, and thousands praised God in the language of Scripture. Insistent and powerful, Miqedem’s music unleashed a sense of joy and victory amongst the attendees.

Sarah Liberman delivered an equally crowd-rousing performance with quiet heartfelt testimonies and prayers in between songs. “He is the source. He is the vision. He is not only that—He is the God of miracles” she said, inviting the crowd to join in the song.
The smooth jazzy sounds of Togo’s French-speaking worship team roused the audience in a different groove. The Togolese group performed so well that the audience joined them by dancing on the stage with national flags.

A vocal ensemble from Taiwan stepped onto the stage with great joy and pride, singing “Zai Jhe li” (The Spirit of God is here). They sang in Mandarin with grace and unmitigated joy, lending a unique Asian voice to the many international contributions at the Feast.

Do Not Limit the Holy One of Israel

Pastor Adeboye testified about his journey of faith and dreaming with God saying, “You know your dream is from God when people laugh at you. And then you can tell them, just wait and see." He confidently and humbly stated that “God is not a joker. Whatever God says He will do . . . He will do!”

The Wisdom from the East

Preaching about the connection between receiving glory from God and unity in the body of Christ and with God, Nathaniel Chow shared about his unique and ongoing journey to learn more about God’s glory. This journey was impacted significantly by his first visit to Jerusalem 17 years prior. He finished with a call for spiritual unity in Christ to transcend political differences between Chinese groups and between what he labeled “chopstick” and “fork” nations. The evening ended with a familiar quote from the book of Ruth: “Your God is my God—your people shall be my people.”
Thousands gather to show support for Israel at the Jerusalem March

A Preview of Prophecy – the 2018 Jerusalem March

Imagine an Orthodox Jewish family from Herzliya, a city on Israel’s Mediterranean coast, spending the holiday of Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) in Jerusalem for the first time. Then imagine that family seeing a multitude of Christians joining an Israeli parade. Add Christians singing about their love for Israel, many of them joyously dancing in the streets. Well, you might guess that the family from Herzliya would be visibly excited and moved by the annual spectacle known as the Jerusalem March, and indeed they were—as were thousands more.

Prayer at the Tower of David

The freedom of the Holy Spirit was felt as Eddie James and a Fijian mother prayed that the younger generation would be set free from drug addiction and the hold of the enemy. The meeting concluded with shouts of “Breakthrough!” resounding from the pilgrims who had come to the Feast of Tabernacles. Many left the Old City changed, revived, and excited for the God of Israel to break through in their lives, families, and nations!

The Feast of Tabernacles 2018 was filled with new experiences, fresh spiritual input, an outpouring of blessing in healing, and dreams coming alive again. 

Join the US Branch’s tour to the 2019 Feast at: www.icejusa.org/feast-tour
“God is not waiting, and He is not dependent on the nations or the United Nations. Our God is God. He created heaven and earth, and He has decided that this land is the inheritance of the people of Israel.”
- Daniel Yahav

“We are serving a God whom you cannot out-dream”
- Dr. Jürgen Bühler

“Why should we dare to dream a dream? Because we serve a God who specializes in doing the impossible.”
- Daniel Kolenda

“Jesus is the one who will satisfy all of the dreams of His followers.”
- Reverend Hervé Datro

“All the big events in the salvation plan of God take place here in Jerusalem. That’s the truth.”
- Dag Julliussen

“But God has brought us back home. The Jewish people are back home.”
- Yehuda Glick
"Here is a simple truth. Israel is the only country in the Middle East that protects the rights of Christians."
- PM Binyamin Netanyahu’s video address

“It sounds like a joke: Christians and Jews helping Muslims, right? But it’s the reality.”
- IDF Colonel (Ret) Marco Moreno

“The dream that God gives you is so that you can become an instrument of blessing to others.”
- Samuel Peterschmitt

“What a loss to live your life disconnected from the plan of God.”
- Rev. Malcolm Hedding

“You know your dream is from God when people laugh at you. And then you will tell them, wait and see.”
- Enoch Adeboye

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INSIGHTS ON Israel

BY ICEJ STAFF
The Pulse of Israel’s Local Body
Getting to know local believers and understand the situation in Israel is vital, and the best source for this is to connect directly with the people of the Land. That’s why the ICEJ organized a panel discussion with three Messianic leaders from three different cities in Israel: Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Ashdod. The open and frank discussion gave examples of how to show God’s love in direct and practical ways. Praying for healing was one of the best examples of this.

God’s Sovereign Faithfulness and Grace for Israel
At the Feast’s first morning plenary, Daniel Yahav shared a message about Israel that only a native Israeli could deliver, consisting of both hope and reality. He referred to Israel’s amazing history through the millennia: “It’s exciting to hear the words that God spoke with Abraham 4,000 years ago, recorded by Moses 3,500 years ago.” God has guided the Jewish nation very much in spite of itself—by grace—and believers should have God’s sovereign works as their main focus as they rejoice over the miracles performed for Israel. Yahav drove home his message on the sovereignty of the Lord by stating, “God is not waiting, and He is not dependent on the nations or the United Nations. Our God is God. He created heaven and earth, and He has decided that this land is the inheritance of the people of Israel.”

Restoring the Altar of the Lord
Peter Tsukahira delivered a superbly inspiring message in which he managed to make Scriptures acutely relevant by speaking about the tribal nature of human conflict and God as the only unifying peacemaker. He used Elijah’s battle on Mount Carmel to illustrate the modern-day battle in which believers find themselves, asking, “Will you be among the ones who will restore the altar of the Lord in the midst of your people?” He ended by declaring about Jerusalem, “Here are your roots. Here is where your King laid down His life for you. Here is where He rose from the dead, and here, according to the Scriptures, is where He is going to return.”

Plugging into Israel’s Prospects and Challenges
The ICEJ’s leadership assembled another roster of accomplished speakers to give Feast pilgrims insight on industry advances in Israel. A new investment platform, “OurCrowd,” was introduced. Recognizing that there is great interest in investing in Israel but a reluctance to do the “deal picking,” OurCrowd vets more than 200 start-ups monthly before it recommends two to three to its global network of investors. This includes everything from private individuals to corporate giants like Google.

Although the OurCrowd investment initiative’s success is an effective counter to BDS, Dr. Eugene Kontorovich and Calev Myers highlighted the nature of the newest form of affront against Israel: “lawfare.” Lawfare attacks Israel and its policies through legal means. It has been one of the BDS (Boycott, Divest, and Sanction) movement’s favorite tactics in their effort to delegitimize Israel, and while the key players have shifted from the Arab League to many European leaders and NGOs, the goals remain the same. The BDS movement is working toward labeling every product created in the West Bank with what is, for all intents and purposes, “a yellow star” on Israeli products in the global market.

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The first Feast night in Jerusalem literally started with a blast as the shofar sounded from the main stage in Pais Arena, calling God’s assembly to attention. The audience was ready to celebrate, and each nation was excited to see its particular national flag ascend to the main stage. A loud, collective cheer sounded when Israel’s flag joined the host of nations, demonstrating the powerful Christian love and support that the ICEJ draws upon in its work for the Jewish people.

**Powerful Changes**

Following the parade of nations and celebratory worship, ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler took to the stage to address the Feast pilgrims. In an expert manner, he drove home two powerful points—namely the amazing reality God has brought about in Israel over the past 70 years and how diverse and multifaceted Israeli society is today.

Based on Exodus 28, Dr. Bühler gave a profound yet accessible introduction to the mosaic of modern-day Israel. Using the priestly breastplate as a model for Israel’s 12 tribes, the audience was introduced to 12 contemporary population groups, each unique in its own way and spanning an astonishingly broad spectrum in terms of religion, ethnicity, and social class. Dr. Bühler suggested that Christians adopt one of these modern-day “tribes” and intercede for its people in prayer.

“Now we don’t have the twelve tribes anymore today,” Dr. Bühler said, “but let me suggest . . . 12 contemporary ‘tribes’ of Israel—12 tribes that need your prayer, 12 tribes the Lord asks you to put on your heart, to put . . . on your shoulders, and to bring . . . before God.”

He used Scripture, along with ancient and contemporary history, to give a highly effective lesson on where and what Israel is today.

The following descriptions include five of those 12 modern-day “tribes,” adapted from Dr. Bühler’s message at the Feast.

### Value-Driven Ultra-Orthodox

The first tribe in Israel is the Ultra-Orthodox community. They are easily recognized by how they dress. They make up approximately 12 percent of the population and have many different traditions, but they have a united voice against immorality. . . . Recall that one of the greatest apostles in the Bible came out of this community, a young man in Jerusalem named Saul . . . After he had an encounter with Jesus, he became the main force in the New Testament church and took the gospel to the nations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>THE TWELVE TRIBES OF MODERN ISRAEL</strong></th>
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<td><strong>BY JÜRGEN BÜHLER AND ICEJ STAFF</strong></td>
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**Table:** The Twelve Tribes of Modern Israel, adapted from Dr. Bühler’s message at the Feast.
Secular Faith

[Another tribe] lies on the exact opposite side of the spectrum, the secular people here in this land, many of who are atheists. However, atheists in the Land of Israel are different from those in other countries. Just a few days ago we honored the day of Yom Kippur. I was surprised to find out that more than 40 percent of the secular community was fasting, too. Israeli atheist Amos Oz has said, “We are atheists of the book. We read the Bible because it is our history book; it gives us identity.” Interestingly enough, it was from among those people Jesus found the most followers when he walked here in Israel.

Voices for the Future

[A third] group I want to introduce to you are Holocaust Survivors. They are a group that is becoming smaller each day. Today there are over 180,000 Holocaust Survivors left. Every year, an estimated 25,000 Holocaust Survivors pass away. Their dreams are sometimes nightmares. They still wake up in the middle of the night, and they hear the barking of the German guard dogs, coralling them into the gas chambers. But the dreams that they have for the future can be summed up by the following: They tell me, “Jürgen, I hope that when we die, that our memories will stay alive, that people will always remember what we have been through.”

And, ladies and gentlemen, that is why we have a Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa. We can take care of those people and also ensure that their memory will pass on to the next generation. Time is running out to help these people. Every day, Holocaust Survivors pass away, and I believe we are called to bless them.

The Russian Jews

[Another tribe] is the Russian Jews. When the Soviet Union fell apart in 1989, more than one million Jews came rushing to the Land of Israel . . . They are an integral part of Israeli society. They serve in the army . . . they even have their own political party in the Knesset, and they can be found among the staff at the Christian Embassy. Over the last 20 years, the ICEJ has helped more than 120,000 Russian Jews make their way back to the Land of Israel. These are the people about whom the Bible says, “Behold, I will speak to the north country and I will tell it, let my people go” (cf. Isaiah 43:6), and God answered those prayers. They have returned back to the Land of Israel.

The Heart of the Start-Up Nation

The last tribe is the academic science/high-tech tribe, accounting for more than 70 percent of Israel’s economic volume. Israel is the only nation that already had a university before the nation was established, and today some of the greatest scientists come from this land. Their dreams are quite literal, like making the lame walk. [One] company called ReWalk actually helps people walk again. Others are working through science to get people’s eyesight back, and still others to heal cancer and other diseases. If you ask those folks, “Why are you doing this?” they say, “Because we want to be a blessing to the nations.”

Pray for the ultra-orthodox, the secular, Holocaust Survivors, Russian Jews, academics, and the rest of the 12 “tribes” of modern Israel.

WE ALWAYS NEED TO REMEMBER THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST APOSTLES IN THE BIBLE CAME OUT OF THIS COMMUNITY

Find the full version of Dr Jürgen Bühler’s inspiring and insightful teaching on the 12 tribes of Israel at: www.icej.store
AWARDS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CELEBRATION

BY ICEJ STAFF

Journey of Dreams – Joint Jewish-Christian Successes
One special evening at the Feast is the ICEJ’s Israeli Guest Night, which provides moving highlights of Jewish-Christian cooperation and joint accomplishments. The ICEJ’s special effort in Aliyah moved the audience as it watched scenes from the ICEJ’s new documentary, Journey of Dreams. They watched one Jewish Ethiopian family’s trials and frustrations as they long awaited an opportunity to immigrate to Israel. They saw this family finally fly over Tel Aviv’s beautiful night cityscape to be reunited with extended family at Ben Gurion Airport. This was the beginning of a tour-de-force demonstrating to Israelis the impressive range of projects in which the ICEJ is involved, spanning aid work, public diplomacy, and the unique Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa. A group of Holocaust Survivors was present in the audience and received the entire arena’s standing recognition. The Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors also received gifts for two million shekels from the ICEJ’s German branch and one million from the US branch, presented respectively by National Directors Gottfried Bühler and Susan Michael.

Israel in the International Arena
Likewise, Israel’s efforts in the international arena and the country’s very tangible blessings to the world were highlighted in a CBN documentary about the time-honored Jewish endeavor for “Tikkun Olam” (loosely translated as “repairing the world”). The efforts of private Israeli citizens among refugees, for example, and the Israeli government’s responses to natural disasters around the world all underscored that Israel cares and does so with a global impact.

The Paradox of Operation Good Neighbor
The crowning jewel of these joint successes was delivered by retired IDF Colonel Marco Moreno, who headed up “Operation Good Neighbor” on the Israeli-Syrian border, an effort aimed at providing aid and humanitarian relief to war-struck Syrians. Moving scenes showed young IDF soldiers, trained to defend their country with force, helping refugees reach safety in Israel. In one sequence, Moreno is in the Golan Heights, close to the border with Syria saying: “You can hear bombing as we speak. That means that tonight our soldiers, our brave soldiers, will go and save lives.” Back in the arena, Moreno concluded, “It sounds like a joke: Christians and Jews helping Muslims, right? But it’s the reality.”

Awards and Recognition
A prime function of this gala evening is to celebrate and recognize valuable contributions. This is why the ICEJ presents the Nehemiah Award each year to an individual who has served the Jewish people in exceptional ways. Because of the seminal move of the US Embassy to Jerusalem, US Senator Jon Kyl—who originally sponsored the bill and legislation leading to the Embassy Act of 1995—was a most natural and worthy recipient of this year’s award.

The Cyrus Award and Notable Achievements
A new award, directly related to recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, the Cyrus Award, has also been instated by the ICEJ. This award has been given to heads-of-state from nations taking the bold step to move their embassies to Jerusalem. ICEJ’s VP for International Affairs Mojmir Kallus highlighted these nations. He also mentioned smaller but significant contributions from other minor, poor countries around the world. The determination of nations like Tanzania and Albania to bless Israel is truly heartwarming and set an example of a different kind. Such quiet efforts are equally inspiring and worthy as some of the headline-making contributions.

Personal Addresses by Israel’s PM and the Jewish Agency’s Chairman
Two personal addresses had been specially recorded to address the Feast pilgrims on this festive evening. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opened his address by stating, “I am delighted that there is a Christian Embassy.” He also stood by Israel’s relations to Christians in the Land, telling the audience that, “Sometimes a profound truth is a simple truth. Here is a simple truth: Israel is the only country in the Middle East that protects the rights of Christians. Think of that. For thousands of miles around us, there is only one place Christians thrive. Right here in Israel.” He finished his address with deep-felt thanks: “Thank you for recognizing Israel. Thank you for always supporting Israel.”

Isaac Herzog, the newly elected chairman for The Jewish Agency for Israel also said: “I want to thank you for your support. Your support has been enormous . . . and we are partners with you . . . Together we have brought 140,000 new immigrants to Israel—I think it is an enormous achievement.”
TOUR ISRAEL AND CELEBRATE THE
FEAST of TABERNACLES

PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

October 10 – 21, 2019

THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS WAS MADE BY AND THROUGH HIM

BEGINNINGS

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 90 nations to worship the King of kings in Jerusalem! There is no better time to visit Israel than during this Feast of the Lord!

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www.icejusa.org/feast-tour • (866) 393-5890 or email us at tours@icejusa.org
The first day of the US Branch’s 2018 Tour to the Feast of Tabernacles was filled with excitement as a herd of over 100 ibex (biblical deer) walked by our bus at the Ein Gedi nature reserve. Our tour guide said she had never seen such a large herd in all of the 30 years she had been guiding.

Ein Gedi is the desert oasis where David hid from King Saul and where he wrote many of his Psalms. Located in the area of the Dead Sea, green trees that feed off the fresh water spring and three waterfalls can be seen from afar. Late each afternoon, the ibex make their way to the springs for their daily feeding.

Of course, a day in the desert around Ein Gedi is a hot one, so we took time off of the tour to enjoy a lovely lunch and spa right on the shores of the Dead Sea. The highlight of the day for many was floating in the Dead Sea where the high mineral content of the water makes swimming impossible. The day ended with the roaring start to the Feast of Tabernacles Celebration under the full moon and star-lit desert sky.

Another highlight for many of the tour participants was a jeep ride on the Golan Heights. Each jeep had a local Israeli driver who explained the history and strategic value of the Golan as they pointed out the places of battles and miracles during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Touring Israel during the Feast of Tabernacles is the very best time of year to go to Israel. It is the only time one can take in the annual Feast event and tour all of Israel in dry, warm, fall weather. It is true, many others are in the Land for the high holidays—so experiencing Jerusalem then is quite unique.

But, we always look for God in those moments, and this year afforded us a special experience. We toured the Old City of Jerusalem, prayed at the Western Wall, and had a time of teaching on the Southern Steps of the Temple Mount. These stairs, dating back to the time of Jesus, are where many of Jesus’ teachings and debates with the Pharisees would have taken place during that last week of His life.

As we were exiting the Old City, thousands of Orthodox Jews were streaming in for evening prayers. Each little street heading down to the Western Wall was like a funnel in which throngs of Jews excitedly hurried to get to the Wall before dark.

How exhilarating to experience Jerusalem just as Jesus had when He was there during the biblical feast times. The population of Jerusalem would double during the feasts, and most of the visitors had to camp in areas around the city. They, too, would throng into the city and to the temple for times of prayer. No longer will we have to imagine Jerusalem in the time of Jesus—we will always remember experiencing it at its fullest!

Experiencing Jerusalem to the Fullest!

2018 ICEJ-USA Feast Tour to Israel

SUSAN MICHAEL, ICEJ USA DIRECTOR
The Feast of Tabernacles has become a favorite holiday for our local church. It’s been about five years now since our congregation began studying God’s Feasts and His special times for ingathering and celebration.

Zechariah 14:16 talks about a day when the nations will go up to worship the LORD at Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. This passage inspired our congregation with an ignited desire to celebrate in Israel and to be in Jerusalem for this feast someday. We explored online to see if anyone else was feeling the same unction, and that’s when we found ICEJ and the “Dare to Dream Tour.” It didn’t take much for us to catch ICEJ’s vision . . . we dared to dream, and we set our faces toward Jerusalem for Israel’s 70th Anniversary. We wanted to celebrate with the nations in God’s Holy City!

So we dreamed, committed, and aimed high. And the Lord met us in our desire. He made a way where there seemed to be no way! And by nothing less than a financial miracle, eighteen people from our local congregation discovered reality—God’s vision to gather at Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, and the ICEJ’s 2018 Feast Tour.

Our group will never be the same after experiencing Israel with the ICEJ. They sent expert tour guides with us who were on fire for the gospel of Jesus Christ and full of knowledge about the Israeli people and their culture. A visit to Israel brings your Bible understanding to a new level. Israel is not only a place of history, it is a spiritual environment charged with insight and revelation.

We will continue celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles with its commandment to have “nothing but joy.” Perhaps we will do it again in the city of Jerusalem with the ICEJ. Blessings to all who partner with this important organization and its undying love for Israel. Our heartfelt prayer is that you would “Dare to Dream!”

Pastor Ray Landis
City of Light Worship Center
Saint Albans, VT

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Sitting in a large tent in the middle of the desert, some 30 young adults from the United States learned about and partook of Bedouin hospitality. They assisted in grinding the coffee beans and drank strong cardamom-flavored coffee famous throughout the Middle East. This cross-cultural experience was a highlight of the Israel tour for the group.

But the fun was only beginning; they later rode camels and slept in Bedouin tents that night. The evening was spent sharing personal testimonies around an open fire and enjoying a time of worship under the stars. Sleep was hard to come by thanks to the many birds living in the camp, particularly the very loud peacocks! But who really wanted to sleep anyway?

Another highlight of the tour for the group of 20-somethings was snorkeling in the Red Sea, not to mention seeing a life-sized replica of the tabernacle. Their service project was to pick up trash along the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

Over half of the group were interns at The Rock Church in Anaheim, California, but were joined with other young adults from around the United States, three from Canada, and one from the United Kingdom. They were all especially talented at finding the closest Aroma coffee shop, and were united by their love for the amazing tour guide, Beni—now named the “official Israel Impact tour guide!”

“This trip was a real blessing to me,” said Susan Michael, ICEJ USA Director. “These young adults were extremely mature and were all eager to take in the teachings and receive personal direction from the Lord. God met with each one of them, and it was a joy to share with them out of the Bible, encouraging them in their desire to serve the Lord.”

Pastor Jessica Harkins of The Rock Hesperia led the tour, assisted by Pastor Zach Patterson of The Rock Anaheim. The ICEJ-USA is very grateful for the partnership with The Rock and looks forward to the next Israel Impact Tour in June 2020.

Learn more about ICEJ’s Young Adult tours at: www.icejusa.org/young-adult-tours
When young people see Israel for the first time with their own eyes, something awakens in them, changing them forever. The Arise summer tour 2018, led by ICEJ Arise Director Jani Salokangas, was one of great impact with many hearts being filled with a greater love for God and Israel.

Some of the adventures throughout the Land of Israel were discovering Jerusalem’s many treasured places, dipping their feet in the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized, going on camel rides in the desert, floating in the Dead Sea, and exploring the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus performed many of His miracles.

This was an unforgettable trip for many, but it was especially so for James, a young man from Canada. Four years ago, James became a born-again believer, and it wasn’t until this trip to Israel that he was baptized for the first time! One memorable service project for the group was picking up loads of trash along the Sea of Galilee. James recounts, “This was not just a small act of service, but it was a great honor for me to use my own two hands to take care of the Land of Israel.”

Another young person that was deeply impacted by this trip to Israel was Destiny, also from Canada. She explained, “It has always been a far-off dream to go to Israel, but God brought me to Israel! Through this trip, God has encouraged me not to be afraid to dream with Him. When I go back home to Canada, I would like to be an advocate for Israel in some way. I have a dream to bring people together to educate them about Israel.”

After receiving a greater understanding of God’s Word and God’s heart for Israel, these young believers will have a big impact on their respective nations. Just as these young people were changed by being in Israel, we also encourage you with these words from James, “You have to see it with your own eyes!”

“*You have to see it with your own eyes!*”

*BKAYLA ELLINGSWORTH*

Learn More About the Arise Summer Tour for Young Adults at: [www.icejusa.org/young-adult-tours](http://www.icejusa.org/young-adult-tours)
“Know Before Whom You Stand”
“Know Before Whom You Stand” is written in many synagogues to remind people in prayer that they are soliciting the mighty Creator. Yet it is also a good dictum to live by when encountering one of God’s chosen people in Israel for the first time. I realized the full extent of this as I listened to the story of Baruch Cohen, the white-haired security officer of Kibbutz Magen. He is a seasoned man and exuded the calm, friendly confidence of someone who has seen and survived many an ordeal.

Baruch was part of a paratrooper contingent that fought at the location known as the “Chinese Farm” in the Sinai Peninsula during the Yom Kippur War in October 1973. This effort allowed the IDF to move a roller bridge forward, which eventually enabled them to open a push for Cairo and encircle the 3rd Egyptian Army, effectively ending the war. Today, Baruch is involved in a different type of conflict, one that blew away Gadi Yarkoni’s legs during Operation Protective Edge against Hamas in 2014. Baruch was the one who fitted the tourniquet to stop the profuse bleeding from Yarkoni’s leg wounds. Gadi Yarkoni (pictured above) is now mayor of the Eshkol region, and both Baruch and Mayor Yarkoni were present for the ceremony to install the newest ICEJ-sponsored bomb shelter in Israel. Their personal presence and gratitude demonstrate how important the ICEJ’s efforts are. With humor but determination, Baruch corrected me when I used the term “Gaza Envelope” for the border region. “This is the Israel Envelope,” he said. He is ready for what’s coming next, and the ICEJ is ready to help.

Sixty-Five Shelters and Counting
In conflict situations, when rockets and mortar shells are raining down on frontline Jewish communities, the ICEJ-sponsored bomb shelters are vital. But they are much more than a means of survival. They enable everyday life to go on for as long as possible. The shelters are the backbone of the all-important sense of security that people in the Gaza Envelope need to maintain while living in the lethal shadow of the Gaza Strip. The term “envelope” denotes the communities near the border of Hamas-controlled Gaza that are easily within mortar and rocket range.
Despite this dire background, the six new shelters sponsored by the ICEJ paved the way to a festive ceremony. This past October, the ICEJ installed its 65th protective shelter at a youth centre at Kibbutz Magen, an important event attended by both Israeli and international Christian press. Thanks to this particular shelter, young Israeli children and teenagers can practice athletic activities. The shelters thus enable a crucial sense of protection for parents, but they also enable another surprising phenomenon: growth. The border communities are growing for a mix of patriotic, financial, and social reasons. It is uplifting that Israelis are hanging on to their land and digging in instead of pulling out and ceding territory to Hamas.

**Israeli Tools of Peace Defeat Instruments of War**

For months now, Hamas has provocatively been displaying its production line for incendiary kites and explosive balloons. This effort aims at maiming human bodies and burning down vegetation and crops on the Israeli side. The ICEJ would like to respond to that by introducing our readers to a different type of production line, one that saves lives and natural beauty.

In Rishon LeZion, we visited the Raz Sprayers factory that produces the custom-made firefighting trailers defending Israel’s vulnerable south. “Rishon LeZion” means First in Zion and is one of the modern State of Israel’s oldest communities, founded in the spring of 1882 by Russian Jews escaping pogroms in what was then the Russian Empire. The pioneers here were responsible for many “firsts,” like the first school with an all-Hebrew curriculum (1888) and the first Hebrew kindergarten (1898). It was also in Rishon LeZion that the flag that would go on to be Israel’s national ensign was flown for the first time (1889), and where a few years later, Israel’s national anthem HaTikva was sung for the first time in a local school (1887).

Two brothers, Jakob and Eli Raz, embody this pioneer spirit and have built an impressive and efficient operation, founded in 1968. Their bread and butter is not fighting terrorism but designing top-notch irrigation devices and vehicles for greenhouses and farming in arid regions around the world. Because the brothers are Zionists and empathize with their neighbors in the south, they have pushed the trailers for the Gaza Envelope up the production queue so that they are assembled and ready for action at the frontline communities on the Gaza border at the earliest moment possible. The trailers help save valuable property and allow locals to defend themselves in a purposeful way, many times putting fires out before they turn into blazes. The production line has been kept busy over the summer, as donations for a total of 17 firefighter trailers have come in from ICEJ branches and supporters. Much of the white-hot hate from Hamas’ incendiary campaign has been doused by the combination of Christian support and Israeli ingenuity.

**Back to the Front line—Back to Normal**

At Kibbutz Nachal Oz, we visited a chapter of the elite tactical volunteer unit that the ICEJ supports with basic equipment. To tour the Kibbutz’ perimeter, which has a direct view to Gaza, we used a specially outfitted SUV—the windows of which were made from thick slabs of protective glass. The local Yatar officer leads 20 men, but because of the increased challenge from Gaza, all in all 70 volunteers are active in the entire Gaza Envelope. “[There’s] no way I’m leaving,” sounds his determined response when we ask of the dangers, and this from a family father of two. “This is my home,” he continued. The Yatar leader is more focused on returning to the quiet that used to characterize the area. For example, for Shavuot (Pentecost), many people used to congregate for a farmers’ festival right at the border.

The ICEJ helps keep these determined volunteers in the field by supplying funds for such items as tactical clothing or winter garb. These volunteers help maintain the civilian presence in one of Israel’s hotspots and are part of the comprehensive effort to enable Jewish civilian life to continue in what is still known as the Gaza Envelope.
Every year is the right year for a trip to Israel, whether it is your first trip or 100th! Many Christian tourists would love to return year after year! If you have never been on a tour to Israel, then this really is the year you must go. The experience is life-changing, and it is a shame to delay it further. Now is the time to plan your pilgrimage to the land of the Bible!

See a Modern Miracle!
The story of the modern-day return of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland—the land of Canaan promised to Abraham 4,000 years ago—finds no parallel in human history. Born out of the ashes of the Holocaust and the dust of the desert, the Jewish State—in just over 70 years—is thriving and leading the world in innovation, technology, science, medicine, security, agriculture, and water conservation. This little country of some 8 million people has survived war, terror, and anti-Semitism for decades while blessing the world in the process. What a miracle!

Surrounded by Prophecy Fulfilled
While traveling in Israel, one is surrounded by fulfilled prophecy and the faithfulness of God to His Word. We see that the Jewish people have been gathered from the North, South, East, and West, from every nation to which they had been dispersed. Their waste places have been rebuilt and gentiles are assisting them. And the desert is blooming—just as the Bible foretold. God is fulfilling His promises made to the Jewish people. He is a faithful God and His Word is true!

Your Bible Will Come Alive
New Christians struggling to study their Bible are often taught to read passages in Scripture as if it were written personally to them, even reciting Scripture using one’s own name in place of the verse’s subject. While it is important to apply Scripture to one’s own life, it is equally important to pay attention to the original context and recipient of the promises in those verses. The Bible is in fact a Jewish book, written by, about, and largely for, Jews. Reading the Bible in the very places where the stories took place, surrounded by the Hebraic culture and faith of the people, makes the Bible come alive.

Encounter God in a New Way
God did not just choose Jerusalem as the capital of David’s kingdom or the place where Solomon would build the temple, but where His presence would dwell and the people of Israel could entreat Him. Walking through the streets of this ancient city, one can sense the 3,000 years of history that took place there and the spiritual tension over the city’s future. Only in the unique and awe-filled city of Jerusalem can one see archaeological remains going all the way back to the time of King David and sit on the Mount of Olives—the place to which Jesus will return (Zech. 14:4).

Your Life Will Be Changed . . . Forever!
Your trip to Israel will ignite your faith like no other trip can. As you are surrounded by fulfilled prophecy and see the modern miracle of Israel, you will be struck by the accuracy of the Bible and the magnificent God we serve who is faithful to His people. You will be greatly encouraged in your personal walk with the Lord and in His calling and purpose for your life. Please do not delay any further. This is the year for you to go to Israel, so book your tour today!
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"Many friends told me not to go to Israel, but after being here I can only say please come to Israel" - Sarah

"I never thought that ten days could impact my life so deeply" - Mike

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