FIRST ALIYAH FLIGHT OF THE YEAR
Dear Friends,

As we closed out 2020, we knew the new year would hold a big challenge for us—helping large numbers of Ethiopian Jews to come home. This mission had been held up due to the various governmental shutdowns caused by both political divisions and coronavirus.

But in December, the Israeli government made the decision to rescue 2,000 of the remaining Ethiopian Jews. Flights began immediately, including one in the early hours of January 1—a sign from the Lord that this will be the year for Aliyah!

We are determined to remain at the forefront of the historic return of Jews from Ethiopia. Since Israel decided to resume the Ethiopian Aliyah back in 2015, the ICEJ has sponsored 2,400 flights for Ethiopian Jews who have come home to Israel.

But those still in Ethiopia are suddenly desperate to escape from an armed uprising launched by a regional militia. Recently, an Ethiopian Jewish man who had waited for decades to reunite with his grandmother in Israel was killed in the fighting. The situation is urgent, and action is needed! We are thankful to be in a position where we can directly help with the return of this last remnant of Ethiopian Jews, many of whom have been stuck in transit camps for more than 20 years waiting to reach Israel.

We will need your help to be able to pay for as many of these flights as possible. Thank you for adding this need to your prayer list. More than that, I invite you to be part of making history through increased financial partnership this year. Together we can bring them home!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
President
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem
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Aliyah in 2021 got off to a fast start on January 1, as a group of nearly 300 Ethiopian Jewish immigrants landed in Israel around dawn on the first day of the new year. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem sponsored the flights for 100 of these newcomers, who are part of the Israeli government’s Operation Rock of Israel airlift to bring 2,000 Ethiopian Jews home to Israel by the end of January.

The first day of the new year saw two flights from Addis Ababa arrive at Ben Gurion Airport early in the morning with a total of 299 Ethiopian Olim (newcomers) on board. The current airlift is being carried out by Israeli officials and the Jewish Agency for Israel with the assistance of several partner organizations, including the Christian Embassy, which supported the Aliyah of 100 of the new immigrants who arrived that day.

The Israeli cabinet decided in 2015 to bring home the last remnant of Ethiopian Jewry, who have been living in poor conditions in transit camps in Gondar and Addis Ababa, some waiting there for up to 20 years to make Aliyah. The Christian Embassy has now sponsored Aliyah flights for over 2,400 Ethiopian Jews who have arrived in Israel since then, but the immigration process has been slow and the challenges to the well-being of those left behind are mounting.

Ethiopia is presently facing several steep challenges, including a prolonged drought, food shortages, a massive locust plague, the spread of coronavirus, and most recently, an armed rebellion in the breakaway province of Tigray, just 45 miles across the border from the Gondar transit camps.

There are still approximately 7,500 members of the Jewish community remaining in Ethiopia, and Aliyah Minister Tamano-Shata, together with Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog, are spearheading the effort to bring those eligible for entry to Israel over the next couple years.

The New Year’s Day flight comes on the heels of a fruitful year for the ICEJ’s Aliyah efforts in 2020. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the Christian Embassy assisted over 3,000 Jews from more than 10 countries in making Aliyah last year. This included sponsoring flights for 1,624 Jewish immigrants coming from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Ethiopia, India, and Brazil. In total, some 20,000 Jews immigrated to Israel in 2020.
As we ring in the new year, the ICEJ is taking on an urgent challenge—assisting with a wave of 2,000 Ethiopian Jews being brought home to Israel.

Aliyah flights for these Ethiopian Jews started in December and will take several months to complete. The costs per person for bringing them home to Israel are higher than usual, but the Israeli government has decided to bring them as soon as possible. And the Jewish Agency is looking to the ICEJ to support this urgent Aliyah effort.

The Ethiopian Jewish community can trace their heritage back to Moses, who married an Ethiopian woman (see Numbers 12:1–10). Some 135,000 now live in Israel, but thousands more have been left behind in Ethiopia because their ancestors were pressured to convert to Christianity several generations ago. There are still some 8,000 of these “Falash Mura” stuck in rundown transit camps in Addis Ababa and Gondar—many now living there for up to two decades in impoverished conditions. They have nothing to go back to, and they simply refuse to give up on their dream of being reunited with their families back in the promised land.

After much debate and many delays, the Israeli government finally decided in 2015 to allow them to come home. But the process has been slow, and now their plight has worsened due to several developments:

1) Malnourishment: Ethiopia is suffering from a prolonged drought, which has impacted the entire nation. Jewish and Christian groups (including the ICEJ) have helped feed and care for the Ethiopian Jews left in transit camps, but many are malnourished and need to be relocated to healthier surroundings.

2) Coronavirus: Much of Africa has been spared by COVID-19 so far, but Ethiopia has seen a high infection rate and deaths.

3) Locust plague: There are currently massive swarms of locusts devouring the land across Ethiopia and East Africa.

4) Conflict: A civil war has broken out between Ethiopian government forces and a regional rebel militia, with fighting reported near the Gondar transit camps.

The sudden insurrection in neighboring Tigray has been especially concerning to Israeli officials—several rockets recently hit the Gondar airport, and one of the Jews living in the camps died in a nearby border clash. He had been waiting for 24 years to come to Israel to be reunited with his 84-year-old grandmother, who lives alone in Kiryat Gat. In addition, reports have now surfaced that a local youth militia recently massacred 600 members of non-Tigrayan tribes in one village alone.

Thus, this latest wave of Ethiopian Aliyah has become an urgent humanitarian mission!

The ICEJ has flown over 2,300 Ethiopian Jewish immigrants to Israel in recent years, including 384 Olim in 2020, despite coronavirus travel bans. Now the opportunity is here to help bring home several thousand more Ethiopian Jews who are desperate to reach Israel. It’s time for us to act!

Please consider a generous donation to help these very deserving people rejoin their families in the Jewish homeland. May the Lord bless you richly as you donate toward this urgent and worthy cause! (☞)

Give toward our Ethiopian Aliyah efforts at: icejusa.org/ethiopia
In May, the four members of the Fraerman family arrived in Israel from Moscow on a specially chartered “evacuation flight” sponsored by the ICEJ. The mother, Tatyana, was 32-weeks pregnant with twins and needed extra paperwork and lots of persuasion with airport authorities to allow her to fly so close to term. Israel and Russia were both amid strict coronavirus lockdowns, and their flight was her last opportunity to travel to Israel before giving birth. But they made it!

“In my mind, I expected to give birth in Israel,” Tatyana recounted. “But due to the coronavirus situation, our flight was repeatedly delayed. The time drew nearer when I would be forbidden to fly, and we began to lose heart. How could this be?”

“Then, as if a gift of fate, we received word that our flight to Israel was scheduled. Suddenly there were suitcases, packing, making arrangements. Everything happened instantly!”

We reported their story several months ago, and after their two-week quarantine, the ICEJ TV team caught up with the Fraerman family in Nahariya, where they were settling into their new life in Israel after their frantic journey from Russia.

“At Ben-Gurion Airport, we were met by ICEJ staff and the Jewish Agency,” recalled Serguei. “Our children were presented with gifts and sweets, and we were photographed. Everything seemed to happen very quickly.”

Serguei and Tatyana shared a touching story of how their eldest daughter, Olga, wanted to bring her favorite scooter to Israel but could not. “All our luggage was at the maximum weight allowance for every person. The scooter is considered separate luggage, and we needed to pay extra for it,” said Serguei. “I told my daughter, “Let’s leave it, and we will buy another one when we get there—and she agreed.”

A few weeks later, Tatyana gave birth to the twins. The oldest is named David and the younger one is Semyon. Both are gentle and happy boys. Meanwhile, Olga has started school online and has many Russian-speaking friends in her class helping her to learn Hebrew and understand her teachers. The youngest daughter, Lisa, attends kindergarten and has learned to count to 10 in Hebrew. Tatyana looks after the house and the four children, while Sergei has found work.

Since arriving, the Fraerman family has quickly grown from four to six and is becoming part of the fabric of Israeli life. But there are many more Jewish families in the nations waiting to fulfill their dream of reaching the Land of Israel.
Looking for a bright side to the coronavirus pandemic? The lack of tourism to Israel this year is giving many key archaeological sites here time to dig deeper, renovate, and plan for the big crowds expected to return once the health threat begins to lift. In Jerusalem, this includes some amazing sites with new archaeological finds that will have you stepping right into the pages of the Bible.

In March, Israel shut its borders to foreign visitors in response to the coronavirus pandemic, and the number of tourists has flatlined. Still, the past year or so has seen a treasure trove of new biblical finds in Jerusalem and around the Land of Israel. For instance, in northern Israel, a fortified city dating to the time of King David was just uncovered on the Golan Heights and is believed to be the first evidence of what the Bible identifies as the “Geshurite” people (see Joshua 12:5).

Meanwhile, in southern Israel, a large citadel dating to the time of the Judges (3,200 years old) was recently unearthed along the Guvrin stream near Kiryat Gat, which was likely constructed by the Egyptians as a defensive position in their wars against the Philistines.

But it is in and around Jerusalem where archaeologists have found some of the most exciting biblical treasures of late. For instance, in digs along the Western Wall, archaeologists recently came upon an impressive underground living chamber dating to the early first century—but so far, they are unsure of its exact purpose. Also, near the Temple Mount, an ancient coin was discovered from the Bar Kochba revolt era (AD 132–135) with the inscription: “Year two of freedom.”

Then there were two more large building complexes found in southern Jerusalem, which (along with a similar site previously found at nearby Kibbutz Ramat Rachel) indicates that the Judean kings ruled over a vast area that needed large centralized structures on the outskirts of the growing capital city to collect taxes and otherwise govern the surrounding regions.

One of these new sites was unearthed during construction work this year near the US Embassy in Arnona, about 1.5 miles south of the Old City. Archaeologists are describing it as a massive government complex from the time of kings Hezekiah and Menashe some 2,700 years ago. They also found 120 Hebrew-inscribed seal impressions on jars in storage areas, which held food collected as taxes for the Judean kings in First Temple times, with many jars marked as: “Belonging to the king.”

Archaeologists surmise that during the Judean dynasty’s final centuries, kings built the large administrative complexes at Arnona and Ramat Rachel to move their activities away from the walled City of David. These facilities remained active up until the Assyrian conquest and even were put back into use again when exiled Jews began returning to the Land of Israel from Babylon.

Just a few blocks away at the popular Sherover Promenade overlooking the Old City, archaeologists have just unveiled a lavish palace from the same late First Temple era with three rare column capitals that match the Phoenician-style ones previously discovered in the City of David and which are thought to be symbolic of the Davidic dynasty.

Experts believe the ornate residence was built by a wealthy and perhaps noble Jewish family between the reigns of kings Hezekiah and Josiah after the Assyrian siege on the city was lifted (2 Kings 19). Relieved by the retreat of the enemy, residents of Jerusalem appear to have ventured outside the walled City of David and expanded the city southward, as is also indicated by the administrative complexes from the same time period in Arnona and Ramat Rachel.
The three well-preserved column heads revealed at the site show skilled workmanship and are of the majestic style depicted on the five-shekel Israeli coin. They are now readied for public display at the City of David Heritage Center, awaiting an influx of visitors once the coronavirus threat eases.

MORE SECRETS IN THE CITY OF DAVID
The City of David itself has been uncovering more incredible secrets over the past year. After locating the original well opening to the Gihon Spring in the 1990s and then the palace of King David in 2005, archaeologists have since unearthed the pool of Siloam of New Testament fame, followed by the newest discovery of the ancient “Pilgrimage Road” connecting the pool to the Temple Mount hundreds of meters to the north.

The Pilgrimage Road (or “Stepped Street”) is a paved pathway stretching some 600 meters from the pool of Siloam uphill to the Temple Mount. Jewish pilgrims would take a ritual bath in the pool before ascending up the steps to worship at Herod’s refurbished temple. It is now apparent that both sides of the street were lined with shops, offering pilgrims various goods to buy after their long journey to Jerusalem.

Last January, a rare stone tabletop used to measure exact liquid volumes was unearthed in a large courtyard along the Pilgrimage Road, leading archaeologists to assess that the area served as a central square in Jerusalem’s main market (shuk) in Second Temple times. The stone table attests to the weights and measures methods used in selling commodities in the shuk)—in this case, for olive oil or wine.

Underneath the Pilgrimage Road is a Roman-style drainage channel where evidence has emerged confirming ancient Jewish accounts that many Jews hid there during Titus’ siege on Jerusalem in AD 70. It was the discovery of the sewer system a decade ago that led archaeologists to eventually find the paved street just overhead.

The street and market were open-air in the first century, but today, they are located 16 feet under the current street level. Work is being done in two shifts per day to simultaneously excavate the subterranean street and prepare it for the throngs of visitors expected within a few years.

OVERHAUL AT THE TOWER OF DAVID
Also of great interest to Christians will be the new finds soon to be on display at the iconic Tower of David, located at the Jaffa Gate entrance into the Old City. Last rebuilt by Suleiman the Magnificent in the 1500s, the historic citadel is using the fall-off in tourism to give the site a major overhaul for when the crowds return. The Tower’s revamped museum will boast seven new galleries, which will tell the story of Jerusalem in all its time periods.

The work also includes the most extensive excavations in a century, and reports indicate it is already uncovering hidden passageways, ancient walls and fortifications, and other features unknown before. Most of the digs are focused on previously unstudied areas of the fortress dating to the Crusader and Islamic periods, when Jerusalem fell to Christian and Muslim invaders numerous times over several centuries. One hidden passage uncovered recently may have been used by Crusaders to escape the citadel.

But the most exciting new area of the ancient fortress for Christians will be a place called the Kishle, which many now believe contains the courtyard where Jesus was brought before King Herod. The foundations of Herod’s palace were discovered a couple of years ago but have only been accessible to select group tours so far. But soon, the digs and renovations will hopefully allow all visitors to see an area where the “Pavement”—or Praetorian—was likely located. This was a public courtyard below Herod’s palace where many scholars now concur that Jesus was tried by Pontius Pilate.

Therefore, the current excavations could completely redraw the traditional route of the Via Dolorosa—the “Way of Sorrows”—which Jesus trod on his way to the cross. So get ready for some new surprises when you can finally visit Jerusalem again. ☺️
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!
HELPING ISRAELI CHILDREN WITH DISTANCE LEARNING AMID CORONAVIRUS

ICEJ providing new students with computers to access remote classrooms

BY KAYLA MUCHNIK

Moving from another country to Israel is a challenging feat, but can you imagine how daunting this could be for a child during a global pandemic? Eight-year-old Yirus recently made Aliyah from Ethiopia with her parents and five siblings. As she began school, she instantly faced language barrier challenges, cultural differences, and distance-learning hardships due to new COVID-19 governmental restrictions.

There are many children like Yirus, who are arriving in Israel at this challenging time. Currently, almost 600 Ethiopian children and another 370 immigrant children from other nations around the world need extra help as they transition into a new—and now online—educational system. “Foundations” is an important new education program that seeks to support students eight years old through twelfth grade. The program provides the tools needed to attend their classes via Zoom, as well as daily physical interactions with a teacher who can help them with technical difficulties, learning Hebrew, and other subjects.

Most new immigrant children who need this program are Ethiopian, but it is also open to other newly arrived children living in Aliyah centers run by the Jewish Agency for Israel. Due to COVID-19, many of these children face incredible difficulties in learning at home; their homes are usually quite small, and some immigrant families cannot afford internet connections to access their child’s online classes. Plus, their parents are learning the Hebrew language and culture themselves, so they cannot help to answer their child’s questions.

Two immigrant children from Russia, Sergei (13 years old) and Alisa (11 years old), took part in the Foundations program and received extra help with their language studies. This made all the difference for Sergei, who is showing great progress with Hebrew, is making friends, and enjoys his time at school. Since the coronavirus crisis began, the ICEJ donated games, Hebrew textbooks, school supplies, books, and a tablet to Sergei and Alisa.

Danielle Mor of the Jewish Agency told ICEJ Vice President for Aid and Aliyah Nicole Yoder how grateful they are for the ICEJ’s support of the Foundations program. “This enabled us to provide such a response in this time of need,” said Mor. “On behalf of Yirus, Sergui, Alisa, and the many other families and children who benefit from the Foundations program, the Jewish Agency sincerely thanks the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. Thanks to your support, these children will be supported and aided in their virtual school studies by trained professional staff.”

The generous giving of our Christian friends around the world has made this essential educational support possible, and we are deeply grateful. Nevertheless, many additional immigrant and disadvantaged native Israeli children around the country need our help. A gift of $600 will help us purchase a computer or contribute educational support for a child. Join us to ensure a smooth transition and lay a foundation for a bright future.

Make a difference in a child’s life today!

DONATE TODAY AT: ICEJUSA.ORG/CRISES
Although Leah was unable to do so in 2020 due to the pandemic, she loves to host overseas visitors brought to her by our ICEJ Homecare team. This is why, on one recent morning, Leah’s breakfast had an international flavor. As she ate with her Moldavian caregiver, Homecare nurse Corrie van Maanen paid a scheduled visit, along with guests from Australia and the Netherlands. Always the gracious hostess, Leah told colorful stories about her native Ukraine, which she left 25 years ago for Israel.

Although raised in a Communist society, Leah learned about Jewish holidays and traditions from her grandfather (a rabbi) and grandmother. Now in Israel, she enjoys all the Jewish celebrations, especially as she says they bring everyone together.

Many Jewish people from Ukraine and other former Soviet republics grew up with no connection to Judaism or knowledge of the Bible, and yet they felt a deep drawing to Israel, Leah said. But when she was diagnosed with a chronic disease, it crushed her dreams of reaching Israel. Then in 1994 she read of a new treatment available in Israel. Leah wrote to the doctor named in the article, who responded: “Are you Jewish? Come to us.” Her mother had passed away, but Leah and her father made the journey together.

Regrettably, the treatment did not work as hoped, and other health problems have ensued. But Leah does not regret moving to Israel. Adjusting to a new language and vastly different culture was difficult. However, she learned Hebrew and joined a support group, as well as a club for disabled people, which provides lectures, holidays, and friendship. “Life in Israel has not been boring,” she insisted.

The pandemic brought those activities to a close, and Leah has faced some very low moments over the past year. However, her good humor helps her cope with life in an electric wheelchair. When the lift has not worked, or a mishap occurs on the street, she still maintains “everyone is so helpful.”

Her English-speaking skills learned from university and honed through a wheelchair-bound American friend has opened “the whole world” to her when receiving our Homecare visitors. Leah has told Corrie many times that the connections Homecare has given her to many far-away Christian friends has been an extremely important part of her life in Israel.

When the need is great, the vehicle of delivery must be big!

For many years, the ICEJ has supported an Israeli food distribution program by lending a hand in packing food items at their weekly discount “market” set up in a mall parking lot. The food packages provide essential provisions to many Israelis living below the poverty line. For many years now, the ICEJ also has provided the local charity a food delivery van to help collect food donations and deliver them to those unable to visit the food distribution center.

However, new government regulations require organizations involved with food distribution to ensure the food items are refrigerated. This could have shut down this charitable project, but through our donors’ generous support, the Christian Embassy provided a larger refrigerated delivery truck now required by law! Amazingly, the truck—with the ICEJ logo on display—started its first rounds of deliveries in March of 2020, just as the coronavirus crisis hit Israel.

By “need,” he was referring to an 1800% increase in the number of requests received for food packages due to coronavirus. Suddenly, families who generally live on the brink of poverty but can usually manage found themselves pushed into dire need when they were laid off work or placed on unpaid leave. Between March and November 2020, the refrigerated truck enabled the delivery of quality, fresh produce, and dairy products to around 50,000 Israeli families (150,000 people) impacted by the pandemic. In addition, the truck made it possible to reach new geographical areas, allowing for more families in desperate circumstances to receive food.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many Israelis impacted by the coronavirus!
The ICEJ’s Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors has seen many changes and expansions since we first started it in 2010. A few modest apartments grew to a large project with apartments in a dozen buildings spread over several streets—plus a community dining hall, museum, and activity center.

We are excited about the latest expansion of our Haifa Home. Renovation of the first and second floors of the newest ICEJ building is close to completion. It will be used for residents who need more care and have a live-in caregiver. Some current residents will be moved there soon and new residents added, while other new residents will fill the older vacated apartments. There will be new faces to welcome, each with personal stories of how they survived the Holocaust. Here is one.

“My Mom Was So Happy Here”
Bluma (her name means “flower” in Polish) moved into the Haifa Home over a year ago, coming from a nearby fourth-floor flat without an elevator. Due to difficulty in walking and health issues, she was no longer able to go outdoors. Her family, who all live abroad, had looked for other options, but nothing worked out—that is, until Bluma decided to move to the Haifa Home, which she had walked past many times. She was so happy to be part of the Haifa Home family.

As a young girl, Bluma started first grade one week before the German invasion of her native Poland. Her family was quickly forced into the Lodz ghetto, but they escaped to Russia, where they drifted around from place to place and experienced hunger, beatings, bombardments, and labor camps. More than 300 members of her wider family perished back in Poland. Bluma made it through the war and afterward moved to Israel, where she learned to design and make clothing like her father, a tailor.

Late in life, Bluma remained independent and was still sewing clothes, despite her failing eyesight. But she also had to start relying on others to care for her and had come to love the attention given to her by our staff.

Recently, Bluma’s health deteriorated quickly, and she passed away on November 8. Her daughter, who had been with her in those last weeks of her life, said: “My Mom was so happy here in the Home and loved you all so much.” It was a privilege for us to have known one more of our Survivor heroes.

Kerstin, a German staffer who came via Worldwide Volunteers, is always happy to help wherever needed and is a ray of sunshine for everyone who meets her. This past summer, she started her second year with us and said, “It’s so beautiful to see how the relationship with the residents has grown and has become so close. It gives me the feeling that I am here for a reason and really needed.”

Natalia added: “There is nothing better than to share my life with my Survivor family! We go together through joyful and difficult things. We laugh and cry together. So many times, I am at the right place at the right time to help with an urgent need, and there is nothing that gives me more joy.”

Happy Birthday to Sofie
Sofie has been in the Haifa Home almost from the beginning, 10 years ago. This week she turned 93. That was a good reason for a party, which was held in our activity center. It was a great time of celebration and joy amid the coronavirus restrictions with a nice cake and a small group of residents.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Haifa Home over the past decade. The work we do there is touching precious lives every day, and more residents will soon be added as we complete our latest expansion. Please consider a generous donation to support our ministry and care for these deserving Holocaust Survivors.

Give today at: icejusa.org/haifa
As we enter the new year 2021, Israel is heading to its fourth elections in the past two years. This election will yet again focus on whether to continue under the security and stability the country has known under longtime Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or finally move on to a new national leader.

The campaign is still in its early stages, and several factors could tip the scales one way or another, including Israel’s coronavirus vaccination effort, Netanyahu’s pending trial, the Iranian threat, and the approach of the new Biden administration to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute and especially to Tehran.

NETANYAHU’S STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES
The election is slated for March 23, and various parties are still jockeying to see who has the best chance to unseat Netanyahu, which remains a tall task. Netanyahu is widely known as “Mr. Security” here in Israel, and even the Blue & White alignment featuring three former IDF chiefs-of-staff could not dent that reputation in the last election.

He also has performed extremely well on economic affairs, championing free markets, and successfully promoting Israel as the Start-Up Nation. Netanyahu has shown incredible diplomatic skills that have elevated him to the status of a Western statesman. And he has enjoyed unprecedented longevity in office by his mastering of the game of domestic Israeli politics.

But Netanyahu is also seen by many as too focused on his own political survival, while his family is viewed as leading a privileged lifestyle. Taking advantage of the three-pronged corruption scandal now facing Netanyahu, the “Black Flag” protest movement has been holding boisterous demonstrations outside his official residence for months on end—and even stirred similar protests in other nations.

While he is preparing for that trial, which could begin before the March 23 balloting, Netanyahu also continues to build on what may be his most lasting legacy: the Abraham Accords. Indeed, the recent peace and normalization deals with several Sunni Arab states is a historic diplomatic breakthrough for Israel and the region.

MAIN RIVALS
His main rivals in this election are not from the Left or the military but from his own Right flank. Both Naftali Bennett of Yamina and Gideon Sa’ar of the fledgling “New Hope” faction were close associates of Netanyahu within Likud. They have since parted ways and now present the biggest threat to toppling the five-time premier. They do not disagree so much with his policies but are banking on Israelis wearying of his personality.

Meantime, Benny Gantz of Blue & White lost public support when he broke his promise not to sit in a government with Netanyahu, even though it was for the good of the nation during a global pandemic. His old partners, Yair Lapid of Yesh Atid and Moshe Yaalon of Telem, have yet to broaden their support base enough to challenge for the top seat of power. And Gabi Ashkenazi has done well in his short stint as foreign minister but is currently still weighing his options.

CAMPAIGN STRATEGY
As the campaign heats up, Netanyahu will tout his ambitious plan for Israel to lead the world in the race for mass coronavirus vaccinations. And he will certainly explore whether more Arab nations are open to peace with the Jewish state—a breakthrough made possible by US President Donald Trump.

Trump may not be there this time to deliver Netanyahu some election-eve gifts, such as his well-timed recognition of Israeli sovereignty on the Golan Heights. Instead, the Biden administration could seek to impact the election by unnerving Israeli voters about Netanyahu being a liability to closer US-Israeli relations. Yet they could easily drive just enough Israelis into Bibi’s arms to return him to power, should Biden’s team come out too strongly against the settlements or too easy on Iran. After all, there is something to be said for security and stability in these very turbulent times.

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Be a part of that future generation spoken of in Psalm 102 that is partnering with the Lord in His work to restore Zion, for the set time has come.

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Show your love and support for Israel by partnering with the ICEJ. Become a Covenant Partner at a giving level of at least $30 a month. In appreciation, you will receive the following resources:

- A Partnership Certificate
- The Word From Jerusalem magazine
- A year-end gift of appreciation

Ambassadorial Partner
Partnership in ministry is a gift God gives to strengthen and undergird His work. Become an Ambassadorial Partner with the ICEJ at a giving level of at least $100 a month. In appreciation, you will receive everything in the Covenant Partnership level plus:

- Exclusive access to ICEJ’s quarterly Mid-East ministry update conference call from Jerusalem
- An invitation to attend our ICEJ USA leadership briefing during our national conference

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Isaiah declared the Lord will call Zion’s walls “salvation” and her gates “praise” (6018). As we walk together side by side, the ICEJ would be honored if you would become a Builder of Zion Partner at a giving level of $2,500 a year or more. In appreciation, you will receive everything in the Ambassadorial Partnership level plus:

- A discount of $200.00 on a pilgrimage tour to Israel during the Feast of Tabernacles or other qualifying tour
- An additional gift acknowledging you as a Builder of Zion Partner

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- Special invites to exclusive events such as pastors’ lunches and VIP meetings that are held in your area or community
- An additional gift acknowledging you are a Gateway of Zion Partner

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