ICEJ TO PRESIDENT TRUMP: MOVE THE US EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

MOVE DELAYED

JERUSALEM
JUBILEE
This is a year of Jubilee celebrations for Jerusalem!
Dear Friends,

We were excited to have President Trump visit Israel last month. His historic visit to the Western Wall was encouraging as were his various statements and warm meetings with Prime Minister Netanyahu. Our hopes were high that he might announce the relocation of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Not only did that not happen, but he has signed the waiver to delay that move another six months.

The USA Branch was very active over the last few months pushing for the US Embassy move, and we report on that activity in this month’s magazine. Many Christian organizations in America are looking to the ICEJ for leadership and opportunities to partner for greater impact on behalf of Israel. We in Israel are so grateful for the strong and vocal support for Israel in the United States.

This issue also reports a third healing testimony we experienced within our ministry in the past year. ICEJ UK Director David Elms survived a fatal aneurysm. Now when he visits the hospital in Liverpool, the doctors say, “Here comes the miracle man!” His miracle, along with the story of Danny Meka and my personal testimony, strengthened our trust significantly in the Lord as a miracle-working God. Nothing is impossible for our God! I hope as you read David’s testimony your faith will be strengthened to expect a personal miracle from God.

In the meantime, we invite you, along with thousands of Christians from around the world, to congratulate Jerusalem on her historic Jubilee. You can do so online at www.congratulatejerusalem.com. And if you have not done so already, please prayerfully consider joining us for this year’s momentous Feast of Tabernacles as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Jerusalem’s reunification. I look forward to welcoming you there!

Many blessings from Jerusalem.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ President

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ICEJ President
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LONGING FOR ZION
The Ageless Allure of Jerusalem

BY DAVID PARSONS, ICEJ VICE PRESIDENT – SENIOR INTERNATIONAL SPOKESMAN

This is a year of Jubilee celebrations for Jerusalem. In 2017, Israel marks 50 years since the city was reunited in the Six-Day War, as well as 100 years since the liberation of Jerusalem by British General Sir Edmund Allenby. This year also holds another important Jubilee salute for Jerusalem: the discovery of the ruins of the ancient City of David by Sir Charles Warren in 1867, exactly 150 years ago.

Warren came to the Holy Land under a commission from the Palestine Exploration Fund, chartered by Queen Victoria, to study the suitability of the land for Jewish settlement. However, his time in the Land is most noted for his efforts to uncover the site of the Jewish temple.

Denied permission by the Turks to excavate on the Temple Mount, Warren began digging down several meters away from its retaining walls in an attempt to burrow sideways to reach the Mount from below. During this tunneling activity, he inadvertently came upon a circular crevice in the bedrock leading hundreds of feet south and eventually reaching the Gihon Spring. Now known as Warren’s Shaft, it turned out the long tunnel was largely a natural formation. However, his digs in the Gihon area soon revealed ancient fortifications and a vertical, man-made shaft leading down to the spring from above, prompting him to conclude that the original City of David lay south of the Temple Mount. David’s actual city had become so lost under centuries of rubble that “Zion” eventually shifted westward to present-day Mount Zion. Warren’s theory has since been proven correct, and his gritty efforts birthed the new field of biblical archaeology.

WITH THIS unlocking of Jerusalem’s biblical past 150 years ago, the city re-emerged onto the world stage. The discovery seemed to stoke the Jewish longing to return to Zion. In the years following, the first waves of the modern-day Aliyah began arriving from Russia. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin recently recalled how these early pioneers were drawn by their yearning for Jerusalem. They may have settled along the coastal plain in such new towns as Rishion LeZion and Petah Tikvah, but in their hearts they were returning to Jerusalem. Many made the trip by simply walking in the direction of Jerusalem, which they knew because they faced Jerusalem during their daily prayers.

The ancient City of David continues to give up her secrets and draw Jews back up to Zion. Excavations of the site accelerated following that incredible Jubilee release 50 years ago, when eastern Jerusalem returned to Jewish hands. Since then, archaeologists have located David’s Palace, his likely treasury vault, and the outer walls and towers protecting his fortress city. A number of bulla, or clay seals, have been found in the...
palace confines with King Hezekiah’s name and several royal advisors to the Judean kings—all mentioned in Scripture—inscribed in ancient Hebrew. Other proofs have surfaced elsewhere in the Land, such as the Tel Dan stela (inscribed stone) referencing the “House of David,” which confirms David and Solomon ruled over a large kingdom. These discoveries have validated the Jews are not foreigners who have stolen land from others, but are a native people who have returned to their ancestral homeland.

**WHEN THE** temple that King David envisioned was completed by his son, Solomon, Jerusalem became more than just an administrative capital. It was transformed into a majestic center of worship and pilgrimage for Jews and others who revered the Creator God. From Jerusalem, the Jews developed one of the greatest cultures of antiquity which would have lasting, universal significance.

Inspired by David—their renowned warrior/poet—the Jews began writing songs to express their devotion and awe for Jerusalem, and especially for the courts of the Lord. These hymns not only extolled the Lord God but also exalted Jerusalem as His resting place. There were even specific psalms to be sung while ascending to the city and when entering the temple courts. Jerusalem acquired such a lofty status that royalty visiting the city was driven to its knees.

**WHEN THE** Jews were later taken captive, the Babylonians knew how to make the pain of exile sting, demanding: “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” (Psalm 137:3). They returned and built the Second Temple; Jerusalem took on even more allure and grandeur, only to later be sacked by the Romans. For centuries afterward, the city languished, and the temple lay desolate. But the pull of Jerusalem was always there, as Jews continued to pray toward her and long for what they had lost. Jerusalem continued to be viewed as the center of the world well into Christian times, as attested by the famous 15th-century map by Heinrich Bünting.

**TODAY**, the incredible finds in the ancient City of David are rekindling the longing for Zion. They are awakening a sense of pride within the Jewish people and deepening their attachment to the land and the city. They are realizing their ancestral heritage is truly rooted in this land, and that they are not intruders but have come home to Zion. For instance, a brand-new poll of Israeli Jews found that 79 percent want to retain a unified Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty, while 83 percent oppose transferring the Temple Mount to the Palestinians. In this year of Jubilee for Jerusalem, what will happen next to ignite an even greater longing for the courts of the Lord? Does the City of David hold more secret treasures which it will put forth this year?

For Christians, the ongoing discoveries in the City of David also hold great worth. They show our Bible is true and strengthen our hope in the soon return of that remarkable Son of David to take up His throne in Jerusalem.

As for exalting Jerusalem—the New Testament presents the city as a bride coming down from heaven. Make sure to join us in Jerusalem for this Jubilee celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles. There is much to see and experience in the city of God.
CONGRATULATE JERUSALEM

Join Christians from around the world and send your congratulations today.

SEND YOUR CONGRATULATIONS NOW!

Your name and message will be added to a special Jerusalem Jubilee 50th anniversary congratulations book and presented to the mayor of Jerusalem.

1. Go to www.congratulatejersalem.com
2. Sign up
3. Send your congratulations

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you" (Psalm 122:6).
ICEJ to Trump: Move the US Embassy

The USA Branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has delivered President Donald Trump and the US ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, a strategy paper calling for the Trump administration to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem this year, as Israel celebrates the 50th anniversary of the reunification of the city.

The ICEJ strategy paper identifies three main reasons that have been offered by the international community over recent decades to justify their refusal to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel:

• The first reason is the idea to internationalize Jerusalem as suggested in the UN Partition Plan of 1947, but this was only intended as a temporary measure and has since become outdated.

• The second reason is the need to be even-handed on the issue of Jerusalem. This too is a poor excuse as many nations—including the United States—have placed their top envoys to the Palestinians in Jerusalem, while their counterparts to Israel sit in Tel Aviv.

• Thus, the only real reason for this refusal is fear of the potential Islamic backlash, which means this sovereign American decision has become a hostage to Arab threats.

“This is not a policy based on principle, fairness or historical right, but it is based solely on weakness and fear,” the authors of the paper insist. They add that by moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem, the Trump administration will right a historic wrong, send a message to the world that America stands by its allies, and signal to the Palestinians that the time for compromise has come.

The US attitude toward Jerusalem is a gross anomaly in that Israel is the only democratic ally of the United States where its embassy is not located in the capital city as determined by the host country.

“The United States should announce its firm decision to officially recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and to move its embassy there in the weeks before Israel marks the 50th anniversary of a reunited Jerusalem,” the paper advises.

“This year of Jubilee for Jerusalem is the right time for the United States to correct this historic injustice by leading the nations back up to Jerusalem,” stated ICEJ USA Director Susan Michael. ☺

Please give to the work of the ICEJ in the United States. Go to www.icejusa.org/give.
American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI) reached another milestone in its short two-year history. ACLI is an informal network of Christian leaders, spearheaded by the USA Branch of the ICEJ, who unite in one voice on important issues reflecting support for Israel. In 2015, Christian leaders united to speak out against the bad Iran Deal. Then, during the 2016 presidential campaign, leaders sent a letter to candidates Clinton and Trump asking them to embrace five principles regarding support of our great ally and friend, Israel.

In advance of President Trump’s nine-day trip overseas, Christian leaders once again united their voices on May 16, 2017 by sending a letter urging him to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and officially recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s eternal, undivided capital.

Those who added their names to the letter read like a Who’s Who of national, prominent Christian leaders who reach an estimated 60 million American Christians via their ministries.

The list included: Focus on the Family President Dr. James Dobson; National Religious Broadcasters’ President and CEO Dr. Jerry Johnson; Concerned Women for America CEO Penny Young Nance; In Touch Ministries President Rev. Dr. Charles Stanley; Eric Metaxas, best-selling New York Times author and nationally syndicated radio host; Family Research Council President Tony Perkins; Christians United for Israel President and National Chairman Dr. John Hagee; and Center for Urban Renewal and Education President Star Parker.

Their letter also referenced the US Congress’ Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 which codified the US Embassy move via legislation. Due to a six-month caveat, each president—both Democrat and Republican—has unfortunately taken the liberty to delay the move.

Christian leaders also asked the president to refrain from including the US Embassy move in any negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. In an accompanying press release, ICEJ USA Director Susan Michael clearly noted history saying, “Considering the 24 years of attempted peace agreements by three previous presidents, it is clear that it’s not a good idea to continue waiting. Now is the time to honor our friend and fully recognize Jerusalem as the eternal, undivided capital of Israel.”

Your support of the ICEJ’s USA Branch allows us to be a leading voice in support of Israel.
Go to www.icejusa.org/give.
May 16, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your leadership of our nation, especially the way you are working to keep your campaign promises. We write to respectfully request your swift action to fulfill a special promise you made, and also one the United States made more than twenty years ago to one of our most important allies. As Christian leaders who collectively speak to over 60 million Americans, we believe the time has come, at long last, to uphold American law by moving the U.S. Embassy to Israel's eternal and indivisible capital city of Jerusalem.

The Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–45) declared, “The city of Jerusalem is the seat of Israel's President, Parliament, and Supreme Court, and the site of numerous government ministries and social and cultural institutions.” It also noted, “The United States maintains its embassy in the functioning capital of every country except in the case of our democratic friend and strategic ally, the State of Israel.” Upon its enactment in October 1995, this legislation established in statute that Jerusalem is indeed the capital of Israel and that the U.S. Embassy should be moved there by May 31, 1999.

Sadly, every U.S. President since then has taken advantage of a provision in the law allowing its requirements to be waived for six months if “necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States.” Such suspensions have been repeated semi-annually for two decades, and it is time to end America’s doublespeak.

The Republican National Convention's official 2016 Platform rightly stated, “We recognize Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of the Jewish state and call for the American embassy to be moved there in fulfillment of U.S. law.” Moreover, we were honored and grateful that you pledged to specifically uphold this policy in response to a request from the American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI) coalition during your campaign. Many of our constituents cast their vote for you due to this commitment.

Now we ask you to send a message early in your administration that the United States will indeed honor its strongest and only true democratic ally in the Middle East by respecting its capital city—Jerusalem—and immediately moving the US Embassy there. Implementation of the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act should not be delayed nor made contingent on any future peace agreements.

Thank you for your consideration and your leadership as President of the United States.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jerry Johnson
President/CEO
National Religious Broadcasters

Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

Dr. John Hagee
Founder/Chairman
Christians United for Israel

Dr. Charles Stanley
President
In Touch Ministries

Stephen Strang
Founder/President
Charisma Media

Star Parker
President
Center for Urban Renewal and Education

Penny Young Nance
CEO
Concerned Women for America

Kay Arthur
Founder
Precept Ministries

Jane Hansen Hoyt
President/CEO
Aglow International

Dr. James Dobson
Founder/President
Family Talk

Susan Michael
USA Director
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

Gordon Robertson
CEO
The Christian Broadcasting Network

Janet Parshall
Nationally Syndicated Talk Show Host

Erick Stakelbeck
Host of The Watchman

Trinity Broadcast/CUFI

Eric Metaxas
New York Times Bestselling Author

Nationally Syndicated Talk Show Host

Gary Bauer
Washington Director

Christians United for Israel Action Fund

Roberta Combs
President

Christian Coalition of America

Dr. Jim Garlow
Pastor

Skyline Church

For a complete list: http://aclforisrael.com/icej-letter-to-president-trump/
Early May proved to be momentous for the ICEJ’s ministry in the United States with several significant events taking place in Washington, D.C. The ICEJ’s USA Director Susan Michael was invited by Vice President Mike Pence to the White House for its first-ever celebration of Israel’s Independence Day on May 2. Almost 100 Christian, Jewish, and congressional leaders attended and heard eloquent remarks from the vice president and newly appointed US Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman.

On May 4, Susan and ICEJ USA Leadership Outreach Director Arlene Bridges Samuels attended National Religious Broadcasters’ (NRB) First Amendment lunch at The Capitol Hill Club. After an excellent briefing from NRB President Jerry Johnson regarding President Trump’s actions to strengthen religious liberty in a Rose Garden ceremony earlier that morning, Rev. Dr. Charles Stanley gave an inspiring talk to the 70 guests who attended the luncheon.

Later that evening, the National Day of Prayer Taskforce hosted a beautiful, uplifting gathering in Capitol Hill’s Statuary Hall, a historic chamber devoted to sculptures of prominent Americans. Arlene Samuels attended on behalf of the ICEJ USA along with more than 250 Christian leaders.

Vice President Pence making remarks at the White House celebration of Israel’s Independence Day.

President of National Religious Broadcasters Jerry Johnson, ICEJ USA Director Susan Michael, and Dr. Charles Stanley
On Friday May 5, the Embassy of Israel held its 15th Annual Christian Solidarity event. Susan Michael served as emcee where she introduced, among others, Israeli Ambassador Ron Dermer who gave a heartfelt keynote address. He declared, “The United States is our backbone, and the Christian community is the backbone of the backbone for Israel.” Two hundred Christian leaders from across the United States attended the event.

American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI), a project of the ICEJ USA, capped off the week with a lunch for 75 key Christian leaders. During the meeting, the network of leaders, representing 40 different ministries, decided to send an urgent letter to President Donald Trump before his overseas trip which began on May 19. Within seven days the signers included 60 of some of the most prominent leaders in America urging the president to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem and recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. The signers noted the significance of this request since this is the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.

The ICEJ partnered with the Israel Allies Foundation for their annual Jerusalem Day event on Capitol Hill on May 23rd. Scores of Christian and Jewish leaders joined members of the Congressional Israel Allies Caucus to urge President Donald Trump to keep his promise and move the US Embassy to Israel’s indivisible capital, Jerusalem. Nine members of Congress gave remarks including Rep. Trent Franks (R-Arizona) who said, “Next month, when it comes time to sign the waiver ... the president just can’t find his pen.” Congressional Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Ed Royce (R-California) pointed out that all religions have had rights in Jerusalem since Israel liberated it 50 years ago. Rep. Brad Sherman (D-California) talked of the Jewish people’s 3,000-year-old history in the city. “I’ve been to the site where our embassy is supposed to stand,” Sherman added. “That land is a part of Jerusalem, permanently allocated to Israel under the Saudi peace plan. It is time for the US, when it comes to Jerusalem, to be at least as pro-Israel as the government of Saudi Arabia.”

To support the ICEJ’s USA Branch go to www.icejusa.org/give.
“I see Jerusalem in your heart”

ICEJ Says Farewell to Vice President of International Affairs Juha Ketola

BY DR. JÜRGEN BÜHLER

I remember well how Juha Ketola became the International Director of the ICEJ. The Board of the ICEJ had just asked me to serve as the Executive Director of our ministry, and it was through divine guidance that Juha and I ended up traveling to Brazil together that same year, in 2011. At the time, Juha was serving as National Director of ICEJ Finland, and at the last minute he was willing to change his schedule and accompany me to the Amazon rainforest. We landed in Manaus and were brought to our host’s house, Apostle Rene Terra Nova.

As we entered his house I expected the usual warm embrace and welcome. But this time Rene stood in the middle of the living room and said, “Stay where you are. Don’t talk.” He then pointed to Juha and said, “I see Jerusalem in your heart! I see God wants you to move to Jerusalem!” Both Juha and I were surprised by this welcome. When we left Rene’s house a few hours later I asked Juha, “Did this make sense to you? Do you agree with what he said?” “Absolutely, yes,” Juha replied. “For some time, my wife and I have felt God calling us to Jerusalem,” he said. “Then you will be our new International Director!” I shouted. We had prayed for weeks for guidance regarding who would assume this role in our ministry, and God answered our prayers more directly than I expected!

Juha has been an extraordinary international director who has led an unprecedented growth in our international work. Within the last five years, he established ICEJ branches in 25 nations, including Georgia, Albania, Kazakhstan, Mali, Burkina Faso, Turkey, and more. He oversaw the expansion of our work in India, where today we have more than 100 representatives and volunteers working for the ICEJ in almost every federal state of this huge nation. But what excites me the most is that 10 of our new branches are in predominantly in Muslim countries. This was the direct result of a prophetic word received before our trip to Brazil. Juha and I were ministering in a little country church in Finland. After the message
the pastor publicly declared a prophetic word for the ICEJ: “Within the next few years, you will open ten new branches—in nations where today Israel is an abomination.” Juha and I looked at each other and we both understood this meant Muslim nations. We had no idea how God would accomplish this, but today by the grace of God we have 10 new branches in Muslim nations, and more are lining up to join! Nothing is impossible for our God.

It was exactly this sensitivity to the leading of God’s Spirit that made Juha so successful. Juha constantly reminds us that if you flow in the guidance of the Spirit, then “it’s eeeaaasy!” When Juha first joined our ministry, he felt he was to make a commitment for five years. This period has come to an end, and both he and his wife Kati agreed it is the right timing and God’s plan for them to return to Finland. We wish the Lord would have kept him in Jerusalem longer, but God still has an exceptional calling for Juha and his wife. To work with him here in Jerusalem and around the world was a tremendous privilege. His heart constantly burns for revival, his enthusiasm and faith are infectious, and his zeal for the kingdom of God is an example to everyone. Along with many pastors and leaders Juha connected with here in Israel, we will miss him greatly.

On behalf of the board, the entire staff, and the international family of the ICEJ in more than 90 branches, we say “kiitos,” or “thank you,” to Juha and Kati Ketola. We know God has even greater things in store for them both. From the bottom of our hearts, we wish them God’s mighty blessings for this new season of their lives. Juha will leave his position in June, but he will not leave us completely. Our friendship and partnership in ministry will continue, and I know Jerusalem will always remain in his heart.

Meanwhile, last October, after prayerful consideration, the ICEJ Board appointed Mojmir Kallus of the Czech Republic as the ICEJ’s new vice president of international affairs. He will join our staff in June. It will be our pleasure and honor to introduce him to you, our readers and supporters, in the next issue of the Word From Jerusalem magazine.

A rich, colorful, and interesting season of five years has now come to an end in Jerusalem for me and my dear wife, Kati! I keep telling everyone how in Jerusalem it is never boring, but something is always happening here—and how the ICEJ ministry flows within this great excitement!

It has truly been exciting and a great honor to be part of and experience the wonderful and mighty things that have taken place with the ICEJ both in Israel and around the world these last few years! To minister and work under Dr. Jürgen Bühler’s leadership has taught me so very much about Israel, about the principles in the kingdom of God, and about life in general; I will always treasure these teachings in my heart. His friendship and fellowship in the ministry will be unforgettable to me. Working alongside the staff at the ICEJ Head Office has also been a tremendous joy for both me and my wife; it is awesome to see the high-quality men and women the Lord Jesus keeps sending to serve Israel and the nations with the message entrusted to ICEJ! This ministry has a great future and will grow!

I am so grateful to Jesus that, when I look back at what has happened since we moved to Jerusalem in 2012, I can look at it with joy. Even though more could have been accomplished, and in a better way—as always—I can still say I am joyous and feel pleasant satisfaction and fulfillment in my heart. In addition to the numerous ministry-related events which happened in Jerusalem and Israel, I also traveled to the nations more than once a month to carry the message and to connect the global church with Israel. As a result, I have innumerable precious memories and experiences in the Lord from this season from every continent, and I know time will never be able to erase them!

With much love and many blessings to the ICEJ family,

Rev. Juha and Kati Ketola
ICEJ Germany delivers petition to German Federal Ministry of Economics

More than 26,100 signatures were collected by ICEJ Germany to highlight the concern among German Christians over the EU incentive to label Israeli goods on the European continent. The petition was delivered to the Federal Ministry of Economics in Berlin by ICEJ Germany Director Gottfried Bühler and ICEJ Germany’s Political Consultant Christoph Scharnweber.

The Federal Ministry has received many calls to boycott Israel, so the petition is an important signal indicating many Germans are opposed to it; this is taken seriously in Berlin. The petition states: “Israel’s blossoming economy has created a climate of innovation, entrepreneurial spirit, and co-existence without comparison in the Middle East. In Israel, Arabs have unhampered access to democratic rights and commercial opportunities. On the other side of the green line [in the West Bank], the only examples of peaceful coexistence are exactly those enterprises which will be affected by the labeling law. This will harm thousands of Palestinian families that depend on employment from Israeli companies in the West Bank.”

ICEJ in Georgia

The ICEJ Georgia branch held a conference in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, late in January. Packed with biblical teaching and intercession for Israel, the conference was also an opportunity to introduce local believers to the work of the ICEJ in Jerusalem as well as the growing ministry of the ICEJ in their own country. The ICEJ Georgia has been working closely with the local Jewish community in Georgia, where seeds of friendship and solidarity have been planted in young Jews and Christians’ hearts.

In February, representatives of the ICEJ met with the Israeli Ambassador to Georgia, Shabtai Tsur, who was impressed with Christian support for Israel through the ICEJ’s global network. We hope to celebrate Jerusalem Day in Georgia together, as Jews and Christians.

“What you are doing is more than simple friendship,” said Mr. Tsur. “All of you are ambassadors of Israel on different levels of the society. I’m looking forward to our cooperation from now on!”

ICEJ Arise, our program for young adults, recently took new ground in Switzerland. ICEJ Arise Director Jani Salokangas traveled across the country visiting new churches and forging new ministry relationships. Thanks to the hard work of our Arise director in Switzerland, Joel Bigler, along with his dedicated team, the ICEJ’s work in this land has a bright future. Young adults across the world are hungry for truth, for real biblical teaching, and for leaders whom they can trust—and Bigler has earned their trust in his country.

“Our faith is rooted in God’s promises for His church, for our lives, and for His people Israel,” said Jani after a meeting in Geneva where dozens of young adults gave their life to Christ. “And tonight, many got this revelation: God spoke to these young people through His promises!”

ICEJ in Finland

Director of ICEJ AID Nicole Yoder traveled to Finland in March where she met with Israel and ICEJ supporters and spoke at various events in the south-central part of the country. While there, Yoder also recorded programs for radio shows to bring awareness to and increase support for the people of Israel. Nicole Yoder, who has served in Israel for over two decades, knows the Land and its people well. Her testimonies from Israel touched people’s hearts in Finland, and many were moved to tears. Yoder was warmly received everywhere she went, accompanied by her translator, Johanna Manner, and later Ulla and Kaarlo Jarveleo of ICEJ Finland.
ICEJ-SPONSORED OSLO SYMPOSIUM A GREAT SUCCESS

In March, the Oslo Symposium in Norway gathered about 700 conservative Christians for a day of spectacular speeches by US Presidential Candidate Mike Huckabee, ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler, and Mosab Hassan Yousef, known as the “Son of Hamas.” ICEJ Norway is one of the main sponsors of the Oslo Symposium, the largest conference for conservative Christians in Norway. Norway’s two biggest TV channels covered the conference, as well as other news media.

ICEJ Norway, led by Branch Director Dag Øyvind Juliussen, organized and led both the Israel session and the session for the Kåre Kristiansen Memorial Prize.

“I feel honored to receive an award in the name of a man of such integrity,” said Mike Huckabee, two-time US presidential candidate and recipient of the Kåre Kristiansen Memorial Prize. Huckabee received the Kåre Kristiansen Memorial Prize for his fearless and unfailing support of Israel. “Kåre Kristiansen was one who understood that God in a special way has given Israel a rebirth, to fulfill His promise that God gave to Abraham,” Huckabee said. “[Kristiansen] lived a life that left footprints we can never fill, but we should.”

YOUR SUPPORT IS WELCOME. PLEASE GIVE TO OUR INTERNATIONAL WORK: WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG/INTERNATIONAL

Consider the ICEJ in Your Will or Estate Plans

With proper foresight and planning, it is possible for you to bless Israel greatly for many years to come. The ICEJ has worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of Israel for over 37 years and will be doing so for many more to come. Your planned gift of cash, stocks and bonds, mutual funds, life insurance, excess in retirement funds, property, or a gift annuity are excellent ways to help the ICEJ carry on your love for Israel.

Call Us: 800-379-3897 www.icejusa.org
The year 2017 is a special year for any student of history and biblical prophecy.

This year celebrates the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, which made the Bible available to all people. Once the Bible was accessible in the vernacular (the language of the people) a mighty reformation of Christianity began. As time passed, hidden truths were revealed, including the understanding of Jesus as the Messiah of both Jew and gentile. Gradually, through reading the Scriptures, some of the Reformers began to understand that prophecy still had many aspects yet to be fulfilled. One important aspect was that Israel must exist as a nation and Jerusalem must be the city of God to which the Messiah would return.

One hundred years ago, the Balfour Act was passed by the British government. This was the “birth certificate” for modern Israel. It guaranteed the right of return for Jewish people to their ancient and God-given land.

Fifty years ago, Israel was attacked by its enemies. Miraculously it not only survived, but Israel drove its enemies from its historical and biblical capital, Jerusalem. This year we celebrate the return of the Jewish nation to Jerusalem.

How I looked forward to 2017! I was planning many meetings, both in the UK and overseas, to share about these wonderful prophetic events and the destiny and purpose of Israel. Parallel to this were the incredible political developments within Europe and in the world; surely these were heralds of His coming!

I had been eagerly preparing for and anticipating the 2016 ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem which I have been blessed to attend for many years. However, on October 13, 2016, everything changed in a moment—truly in the twinkling of an eye.

As I stood up in my lounge, I experienced the most excruciating pain I have had in my life. It was in my kidneys and it caused me to collapse on the floor just as my wife providentially walked into the room. She realized something was seriously wrong, and within a short time I was taken to Liverpool hospital, slipping in and out of consciousness. My wife said the last words I spoke to her that day were, “If I don’t see you here, I will meet you over there.” The specialist came to her and told her to gather the family to say goodbye, as there was little chance of me coming through the procedures.
relating to an aortic, abdominal aneurysm. It appeared that instead of me waiting for the return of the Lord, He was about to take me to be with Him.

What followed is not in my memory. I went into a coma and contracted pneumonia. It would be many weeks before I regained consciousness. When I did, I discovered the incredible power of prayer in the name of Jesus, which was what raised me up. This prayer had begun in a small way within my family, friends, and church. Soon the situation was brought to the attention of believers in the UK. Prayers had been offered up from America to New Zealand, a humbling experience. The ICEJ had been informed of the situation and a Facebook Messenger account had been opened by my family.

If the aneurysm had happened 24 hours later, I would have been on the plane to Israel; there would have been nothing anyone could have done for me. But God has a providential plan and purpose for each person’s life.

Even though I missed my appointment in Jerusalem, I did not miss out on the biggest miracle in my life. When the specialist later discharged me, his exact words to me were, “This was a minor miracle.” My wife said, “It was not a minor miracle, but a major one!” Recently, my local doctor said to me, “We call you the miracle man. Eighty-five percent of people who suffer from these aneurysms die, and of the remaining 15 percent, many are left with various handicaps.” Since then my health and mobility continue to improve daily, glory to God.

The truth is, I am not a miracle man but I follow and serve a miracle-working God who answers the prayers of His people.

For many who attend the Feast of Tabernacles celebration, one of the great highlights is the gathering together of thousands of pilgrims at Ein Gedi. This spectacular event on the shores of the Dead Sea is moving and powerful. To be with so many believers from so many nations worshiping the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the promised land is a most wonderful experience.

That night at Ein Gedi, the main speaker addressed the ICEJ leadership and said he had a word from the Lord that someone closely linked to the ICEJ ministry was ill and the whole assembly should pray for him. So, thousands gathered to pray for me. He went on to say that in a few hours my kidneys would be healed. Until that point, I had never suffered from any kidney troubles in my life. Back home a few hours later, the surgeon approached my wife and said there was no damage to my kidneys; the doctors were now hopeful I would make a full recovery.

Sometime later, Jürgen called me to see how I was progressing. I told him the artery that had burst ran down the front to my kidneys, and I had a long scar down the front of my chest. He told me his cancer, which he had been miraculously healed of, had run from his kidneys to his heart via the veins. His large scar was across his stomach. Together our two scars make the sign of the cross.

The ICEJ has had many trials and testings. However, we are covered by the finished work of the cross and the power of the resurrection. If we continue together in faith and prayer, the ICEJ will complete its calling and destiny. There are many challenges ahead, my dear friends, but there are also many miracles.

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17 | WORD FROM JERUSALEM
This is the Year to Move the US Embassy to Jerusalem

BY Susan Michael

Many conservative Christians voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election due to his commitments on several issues—one being to support Israel and move the US Embassy to Jerusalem. Here are several compelling reasons why this is the time to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem.

Righting Historic Injustices
This move would right a historic injustice: the one country in the world where the US Embassy is not located in the functioning and declared capital city is our closest and most democratic ally in the Middle East. A country whose citizens love America, weep when we weep, celebrate when we celebrate, and share our values, deserves this type of recognition.

It also would end an unrealistic requirement in UN Resolution 181 known as the 1947 UN Partition Plan. This resolution was a proposal to partition Mandatory Palestine at the end of the British Mandate making way for the creation of independent Arab and Jewish States. Jerusalem was not included in either state—Jew or Arab—and was to have a special international regime overseeing it for ten years after which the residents could vote regarding their status.

The UN Partition Plan was not law and is considered a non-binding resolution. However, it did express international backing for Jewish and Arab statehood in Mandatory Palestine. As a result, Jewish leaders declared statehood, and for this reason alone the Partition Plan is to be appreciated.

The Arabs, however, did not announce statehood and instead rejected the Plan, declared war on Israel, and attempted to take over Jerusalem—and all of Israel if possible. At the end of the war, Jordanian Arab forces occupied the entire Old City of Jerusalem, including the Temple Mount—the holiest site in the Jewish faith. They destroyed the synagogues in their territory, killed or expelled all Jews, and made the eastern part of Jerusalem Jew-free until 1967 when Israeli forces gained control of eastern Jerusalem as well as the entire West Bank.

The UN Partition Plan had the best of intentions but was a total failure due to its rejection by the Arab leaders. Now is the time for the world to recognize this failure and give up on the notion that any of it still applies today, especially the provision of placing an international regime over Jerusalem.

Even if the city had been internationalized in 1948, the Partition Plan only called for a ten-year regime after which the residents could vote on their status. Today, after 50 years of Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem, most residents would vote to remain under Israeli governance. Recent polls indicate that just over half, or 52 percent, of Arab residents of Jerusalem would prefer Israeli citizenship, and many would move to Jewish neighborhoods to stay under Israeli rule if necessary.
President Trump has signed a waiver of the 1995 Jerusalem Embassy Act which delays moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem for another six months. Let us pray this is the last waiver and upon its expiration in December 2017 the US Embassy is finally established in Israel’s capital city, Jerusalem.

**Peace Through Strength**
Opponents of the embassy move often caution against it out of fear of a violent reaction. No one wants to be the cause of unnecessary bloodshed, but we need to learn from Israel not to allow terrorists and jihadists to dictate our policy. Also, this president has more political leverage than any other in years and could very well pull this off with minimal reaction if he plays his cards right. The entire Sunni Arab world wants his help against Iran and will be willing to concede in other areas to get it.

Then there is the fear of derailing peace talks. There is no better way to get the Palestinians to the table than to place the US Embassy in west Jerusalem. Doing so would demonstrate that the longer the Palestinians refuse to negotiate, the more ground they will lose. Now, that is the way to get peace negotiations started!

**Honoring Israeli Peacekeeping**
It is time for the nations to recognize that Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem has kept the peace—not blocked it! Under Arab control, the Old City experienced ethnic cleansing and complete destruction of the Jewish quarter including its synagogues. Under Israeli control, the city has been rebuilt, holy sites have been maintained, and freedom of worship has been protected for all faiths. As a Christian organization based in Jerusalem, the ICEJ can attest to this. In all honesty, we owe Israel a big “thank you” for the freedom of access to the sites holy to our faith!

**An Anniversary Worth Celebrating**
This year is the anniversary of several significant events beginning 120 years ago, in 1897, when Theodor Herzl declared at the First Zionist Congress the Jews would have a state within 50 years. One hundred years ago, in 1917, British General Allenby entered the city of Jerusalem on foot ending some 1,300 years of Muslim rule over the city. Seventy years ago, in 1947, the UN Partition Plan paved the way for statehood, and 50 years ago Israeli sovereignty was established over all of Jerusalem. What better time for the nations to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel than 2017—the 50-year anniversary of its reunification under Israeli sovereignty.

Jesus predicted these days when He said Jerusalem would be “trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:24). Two-thousand years later gentile rule over Jerusalem has ended, and it is time for the nations to accept it!

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