US EMBASSY OPENS IN JERUSALEM
Dear Friends,

This month I give you greetings from Washington, DC! I am here in your capital city having just celebrated several momentous occasions in the history of Israel and the history of your great nation. And I am overwhelmed with thankfulness for the role that America has played in the founding and survival of the State of Israel.

As we celebrated the 70th anniversary of Israel’s founding we acknowledged the role that President Harry Truman played when he led the nations in recognizing Israel. This bold stand, in the face of much opposition from his cabinet and advisors, helped Israel survive as a newborn state.

And just last year, another American president defied his advisors in order to keep his campaign promise to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move the US Embassy there. The fact that the US Embassy opened on Israel’s 70th anniversary was something only God could do. It ushers in a whole new season in history for Jerusalem, and for the Jewish people.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the American family of the ICEJ for your prayers for Israel and for your political activism at these key points in history. Your government has played a critical role in the history of the Jewish people. As Prime Minister Netanyahu said at the opening of the US Embassy, “President Trump, by recognizing history, you have made history.”

This month we celebrate history as “His story,” and we thank God for His mighty act of restoring His people to their land and spiritual capital city, Jerusalem.

Yours in Christ,

Dr Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ President

COVER PHOTO: US Embassy Jerusalem
FOR MAGAZINE ARCHIVES
visit www.icejusa.org/wfj
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With raucous applause and a standing ovation, the attendees of Israel: Seventy and Strong responded to the live-streamed remarks of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as he closed his official speech marking the historic opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem. With a dramatic pause on each word, Prime Minister Netanyahu echoed a common phrase, which on this day seemed to echo with even greater meaning: “God bless the United States of America and God bless Jerusalem, the eternal undivided capital of Israel.”

The sold-out Washington, DC event, celebrating Israel’s founding and the move of the US Embassy to Jerusalem, began with a gala dinner on Sunday evening held at the beautiful, new Museum of the Bible. While there were many highlights to the evening, a letter from US Vice President Mike Pence and a video greeting directly from the Prime Minister himself reminded everyone that our special marking of this day was noted in the highest halls of government. Keynote Speakers were Reuven Azar, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Israel in Washington, DC; and Gary Bauer, Washington Director of the CUFI Action Fund.

The nearly 400-person-strong crowd that assembled in our nation’s capital came from over 40 countries and included leaders from dozens of American Christian organizations as well as over 50 Millennial leaders, demonstrating that the movement of Christian support for Israel is global, broad-based, and is positioning itself for the future.

The celebration continued on Monday with expert sessions on assessing Israel and the Christian Zionist movement and learning how to better articulate our message and engage the Christian community for greater impact and future viability. The highlight of the day was joining together to celebrate during the live stream of the opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem.

Tuesday’s closing event was a rousing celebration of Jerusalem Day in partnership with the Israel Allies Foundation. This event not only celebrated the reunification of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty 51 years ago, but the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital by the Trump administration and move of the US Embassy there. Speakers included Congressman Doug Lamborn (R-CO), co-chair of the Israel Allies Caucus, Congressman Keith Rothfus (R-PA), and Congressman Glenn Grothman (R-WI).

Time and again, the Christians assembled in unity were thanked from the stage for their tireless work over several decades that has culminated in the US Embassy opening in Jerusalem. It was a poignant reminder of the need for persistent prayer for our government, and grassroots efforts coupled with collaboration of leaders such as the ICEJ’s American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI).

We came away from the historic events of the week greatly encouraged with a renewed strength to press forward together in defense of Israel and the Jewish people worldwide.
My family and I, as Arab Israeli Christians, thank God every day for the privilege of living in the only free democracy in the Middle East. We feel like the most blessed people in the world.

See, there are nearly 15 million Christians presently living in countries across the Middle East, and only around one percent of us live in freedom. We are the one percent of Christians in the Middle East who are fortunate enough to live in Israel.

In every other country in the Middle East, and even in areas under the Palestinian Authority, if I were to stand in the public square and proclaim my faith in a clear loud voice, I would certainly be harassed, probably arrested by the police, perhaps tortured, and maybe even killed.

If I stand in the public square and proclaim my faith in the small village where I live, and if I am harassed by anyone because they disagree with my message, the Israeli police may show up. But they would not come in order to beat me into silence. They would come to protect me from my persecutors and to preserve my freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

I cannot ignore this. I cannot take it for granted.

Dr. Saleem Shalash is the pastor of Home of Jesus the King Church in Nazareth, Israel. As a Christian Israeli Arab leader he is an important voice of reason and truth. To download his entire speech go to https://www.icej.store/.
The ICEJ was honored to have Mr. Tom Rose, assistant to the vice president and chief strategist, attend the gala dinner on Sunday evening, May 13, and read a letter of support and greeting from Vice President Mike Pence. The letter expressed the president’s and vice president’s appreciation for the untold number of voices the ACLI had mobilized in support of the move of the US Embassy to Jerusalem.

Also in attendance at the dinner were Millennial leaders from the White House who were very moved by the collaborative show of support for Israel at the evening event. Millennial leaders were present from congressional offices on Capitol Hill and the State Department, while others were lawyers, entrepreneurs, teachers, youth leaders, and senior pastors. Their response to the program was overwhelmingly positive and many remarked on the rich array of speakers, video, and musical presentations that kept the evening engaging and impactful through to the end.

**WHITE HOUSE GREETINGS**

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**The Vice President**

**Mike Pence**

**Vice President**

**United States of America**

**Welcome**

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Greetings to each of you gathered with the American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI) in celebration of the Israel: Seventy and Strong Gala.

Since its formation in 2015, the ACLI has inspired untold numbers of American Christians to raise their voices in support of our most cherished ally, Israel, and to strengthen the ancient and eternal ties that bind our two nations and two peoples together.

President Trump and I are deeply grateful to each of you for your tireless efforts to promote the moving of the American Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, the capital of the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

Under President Trump’s leadership, our Administration will continue to enhance the special relationship between the United States and Israel—and to stand with our friend and ally in this historic moment and all other moments. With your voices and with your prayers, I am confident that the best days for both Israel and the United States are yet to come.

To each of you gathered as friends and partners of the ACLI, I send my best wishes for a memorable evening and a wonderful celebration of Israel’s 70th anniversary of independence and rebirth in her ancient land. May God bless you, may God bless the State of Israel, and may God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Pence

Vice President of the United States
Christian Zionists worldwide celebrated two momentous occasions beginning December 6, 2017 with President Trump’s announcement to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem and recognize the city as Israel’s ancient and now modern capital. Then on May 14, 2018, one hundred and fifty-nine days later, US dignitaries unveiled the inaugural dedication plaque engraved with the United States of America’s seal. The emblazoned names of President Donald J. Trump, Vice President Michael R. Pence, and Ambassador to the State of Israel David M. Friedman took their place in history at the US Embassy now located in Jerusalem in the quiet neighborhood of Arnona.

In the lead-up to May 14, Israel’s 70th Independence Day, workers plastered Jerusalem with new street signs pointing the way to the US Embassy. American and Israeli flags adorned buildings, homes, and poles along with banners and posters saying, “God Bless President Trump.” On the road winding its way up a low hill toward the US Embassy, red, white, and blue flowers shaped into a large American flag greeted 800 guests, which included politicians, billionaires, military personnel, Jewish and Christian leaders. A 250-person American delegation was led by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who along with Ivanka Trump, unveiled the seal and the dedication plaque.

Emceed by US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, the US Embassy dedication program featured a mix of US and Israeli leaders including Israel’s president and the prime minister, a video greeting from President Trump, Senior Advisor Jared Kushner, and US Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan. Rabbis and pastors offered prayers and US Marines proudly presented the Colors.

With a nod to the 250-strong US Delegation, PM Netanyahu opened his speech saying, “We have no better friends in the world.” In his remarks he went on to say, “President Trump, by recognizing history, you have made history.” He later referenced the prophet, Zechariah, who declared over 2,500 years ago, “So said the Lord, ‘I will return to Zion and I will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth.’”

Meanwhile in Washington, D.C., American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI)—a project of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ)—held the United States’ premier event Israel: Seventy and Strong beginning with a 400-person multi-generational gala at the Museum of the Bible. A national leader quipped, “If you can’t be in Jerusalem, this is the place to be.” Forty leaders in the ACLI network made the Summit, organized by ACLI and ICEJ, possible. A two-day summit followed the gala with national and regional leaders celebrating their important role in 2016 and 2017 in President Trump’s decision to enact the Jerusalem Embassy Act and thereby move the US Embassy. During the summit, an expert educational agenda promoted collaboration for future advocacy for Israel.

As the United States Embassy dedication ended, Hagit Yaso, an Ethiopian Israeli singer delivered a moving song “Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu/Peace Will Come to Us.” And like millions of Jewish people from across the globe immigrating in many ways via ships, planes, trains, and yes, on foot, Hagit’s parents made Aliyah to Israel by walking across the Sudan to reach their ancestral homeland. With the 70-year imprimatur of Presidents Truman and Trump, the United States Embassy is now rightfully located in Israel’s 3,000-year-old capitol where the Israeli hope for peace with their neighbors remains and grows stronger. 😊
On May 15, the Israel: Seventy and Strong Summit culminated in a Jerusalem Day celebration of the reunification of Israel’s capital city and the movement of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem. The event was cohosted by the Israel Allies Foundation (IAF) and the American Christian Leaders for Israel, a project of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ).

“For the past six years the IAF has hosted a Jerusalem Day celebration on Capitol Hill in commemoration of the reunification of the city under Israeli sovereignty,” remarked Jordanna McMillan, IAF’s Director of Outreach and Communications. “Every year dozens of Members of Congress have called on the sitting President to move our Embassy to Jerusalem in keeping with US law. Today we celebrate what we have long known as fact—that Jerusalem has only ever been the capital of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Now US policy reflects that reality. A significant part of this education has included urging international and US legislators to move their embassies to Jerusalem.

To celebrate the Embassy move in the US capital, Representatives Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Glenn Grothman (R-WI), and Keith Rothfus (R-PA) spoke along with, Itai Bar Dov, Spokesperson of the Embassy of Israel, Jordanna McMillan, IAF Director of Outreach and Communications, Saleem Shalash, an Israeli Arab pastor from Home of Jesus the King Church in Nazareth; and David Parsons, VP of the ICEJ and one of the original drafters of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 spoke at the event.

Congressman Doug Lamborn (R-CO) addressing the Summit participants

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Since its founding in 2007, Israel Allies Foundation has worked closely with elected officials in the United States, Canada, and dozens of European governments, as well as the European Parliament, numerous African countries, and across Latin America to educate legislators about the importance of an indivisible Jerusalem and the significance of Jerusalem as Israel’s recognized capital. The Embassy move in the US capital is a significant event for Israel and the Jewish people.

Jesus said in Luke 21 that Jerusalem would be “trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” The way he describes Gentile control over Jerusalem, it is not a good thing. The city needs to be freed and back in Jewish hands to reach its prophetic destiny. Jesus said, “render unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s and unto God that which is God’s.” And ultimately, Jerusalem belongs to God! So it just seems that something is right again in the universe when the nations start giving Jerusalem its rightful place.
A BOMB SHELTER THAT SAVED A SCHOOL

BY KAYLA ELLINGSWORTH

Bomb shelters not only protect people from rockets and bombs, but they can also protect a facility from being shut down by the law. This was the case for a school in Sderot. With about 35 rocket attacks on this area just in this last year, the school was required by law to have a designated bomb shelter for the children. They did not have the funds to make this possible, so they were going to have to close the school.

This is where the ICEJ stepped in and provided a substantial amount of finances to make this shelter a possibility, thus allowing the school to remain open. The special educational program offered at the school is uniquely designed to help children who have experienced trauma from growing up in a war zone. The teachers use a very creative and hands-on style of teaching that helps the children learn how to cope with trauma while receiving a foundational education.

Hearing firsthand from a teacher at the school, she expressed the reality of living 1 – 1.5 miles from the border of Gaza: “As a parent and teacher with neighbors who live in Gaza, we try to live our lives as usual but also try to prepare and be ready if anything happens.”

The Chief of Security of the entire region expressed his gratitude to the ICEJ by saying, “Toda rabba [Thank you!] This little project has a big impact for the children and for the school. The children are able to do their work with much more confidence and security. There are simply no sufficient words for what you have done!” The teachers also expressed their great appreciation for the new shelter that allowed the children to continue their schooling.

Thus far, the ICEJ has helped place 55 bomb shelters throughout the land of Israel, and we continue to offer as much help and protection to the people of Israel as we can. To be a part of this great work, please visit: www.icejusa.org/bombshelter

“I REGRET NOTHING”

ICEJ ASSISTING NEW IMMIGRANTS

BY KAYLA ELLINGSWORTH

God is bringing the Jewish people home. Aliyah is a dream for many Jews around the world, and yet living out that dream brings many trials that need to be overcome. An essential and efficient way to adapt to Israeli society is through absorption centers. The ICEJ and Jewish Agency are working together to support new Jewish immigrants residing in centers.

The director of the Ye’elim Absorption Center, Moris Cohen, shared his gratefulness to the ICEJ for continued partnership in helping thousands of new immigrants, “Thank you to the ICEJ. It’s because of your generosity that we can carry out many different programs for the immigrants from all around the world.” The IT training for new immigrants is funded by the ICEJ, and amazingly the success rate has been 100%. We have helped train 30 IT programmers every year for the past 5 years, and every single one of these new immigrants has a job!

One impactful story from an ICEJ-supported immigrant at Ye’elim was that of a young Russian Jewish father. Within one year he moved from Russia to Israel with his young pregnant wife, became a father, learned English and Hebrew, was trained in IT and received an offer to work at an IT firm in Israel. He explained, “My family and I would not be where we are today without all of the help and support of this program. What can I say? I regret nothing.”

God is continuing to move powerfully in bringing the Jewish people to their promised land of Israel. It is our joy and honor to be a part of what He is doing, and we invite you to join us in this beautiful work by helping these new immigrants fully integrate into their new homeland!

DONATE ONLINE

To support this powerful work of immigrant assistance, please visit: icejusa.org/aid/immigrant-assistance
ICEJ HELPS ETHIOPIANS CELEBRATE PASSOVER IN ISRAEL

BY KAYLA ELLINGSWORTH

The ICEJ has helped 1,300 Ethiopian Jews return to Israel this past year, and it was our great joy to help them celebrate their very first Passover Seder meal in the land of Israel. The Charuv Absorption Center in Beersheva held a pre-Seder meal for the new Ethiopian Olim to teach them how to celebrate the biblical feast of Passover. The ceremony was not just a part of the absorption center classes but also a time of celebrating the fact that their dream of living in Israel had finally come true.

Entering the room dressed in their traditional Ethiopian clothing, the new Ethiopian Olim excitedly sat down at the tables already prepared with the Passover Seder elements. Several guests and sponsors expressed their joy for these new Olim. Rabbi Menachem Waldman explained, “As you saw in Gondor last year, still 8,500 Ethiopian Jews are waiting, but we must be sure that all of them will come. Why do I say this? Because it isn’t a decision of the prime minister or government ministers, it is a decision of God. God’s voice comes to the ears of the Jewish people wherever they are and whoever is listening, and they come to Israel.” ICEJ’s VP of Operations Barry Denison also encouraged these new Olim by saying, “The ICEJ has been praying for you to return to Israel, and seeing you here today celebrating your first Passover here in Israel is an answer to our prayers.”

The Ethiopian children also had a special Passover celebration, which allowed them to interact and learn more about Passover. They enjoyed tasting each of the Passover elements, singing the songs, dancing, and playing games. After the ceremony, an Ethiopian family invited us to their home for a real taste of Ethiopia. Their hospitality was astounding as the women prepared and served us fresh Ethiopian coffee that was roasted, ground, brewed, and poured right before our eyes. They also prepared homemade popcorn and injera (a sourdough flatbread). It is a beautiful sight to see that the Ethiopian Olim are learning Hebrew and integrating into the Israeli culture, and at the same time they are not losing sight of their Ethiopian culture which adds to the unique flavor of the Israeli society.

The ICEJ is honored to be a part of not only helping the Ethiopian Jews return to the land of Israel, but also helping them integrate into their new home. A recent Ethiopian Olim who is a young father said, “It is amazing to see that such big organizations care about us, notice us, and want to help us.”

Thanks to your generosity we were able to bless 1,578 new immigrants with meals to help them gather around their very own Passover Seder table for the first time here in Israel!”
ICEJ-sponsored “Touching the Horizon 7 Program” has been making great impacts on the youth of Israel. The mentoring program assists youths from underprivileged families by offering after-school activities and trained mentors who help at-risk teens through the last difficult years of high school—when many might otherwise drop out and turn to drugs or crime. The counseling and follow-up continues even into their years of army service.

Let’s take a closer look and hear from some of the students themselves:

Eden Yehezkel – 19 years old: “I wasn’t a good student and I felt like the school didn’t accept me, so they opened a special class, ‘7 Program.’ We got a mentor who listened to us and helped us in everything. She really cared about me. When I said I didn’t want to study any more, Ella said, ‘No, you’re not giving up. You can do it. I know you can!’ The program raised my confidence and I even got a certificate of excellence from my school!”

Shir – 18 years old: “Before 10th grade my life was a mess, because my parents were going through a divorce... When the program began, we had special one-on-one lessons, so I could talk about my life, my thoughts, and my fears. My mentor made me understand that there’s no way I’m giving up. He helped me understand that I can finish high school. I wish for everyone to be a part of this project. ‘7 Program’ can really save lives.”

Ilya Mikler – 25 years old: “When I was in the 10th grade, I started the ‘7 Program.’ Thanks to the program... I’m a student achieving a BA in education... I finished high school, my self-confidence increased, I recorded my song, and my daily job is to develop creativity for children. I’m trying to help others the same way others helped me.”

There are many more success stories like these, and we need your help to continue to impact the lives of young Israelis. Partner with us today at: icejusa.org/educational-fund

Right outside the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors, Judit was the Survivor that caught my eye with her smile and radiance of joy. Judit endured the cruelty of the Holocaust in her childhood, but now at 88 years old, she is enjoying her latter years in peace, safety, and community at the Haifa Home. Judit smiled and confidently positioned herself in the line to begin loading boxes with food items for Israeli families in need, thus enabling them to celebrate the Passover without lack.

This effort was joined by ICEJ staff, who together with the Holocaust Survivors and staff at the Haifa Home, packed hundreds of boxes full of food items needed to make the Passover meal. Thanks to your generous gifts, 575 families were blessed with meals for Passover! One of the Holocaust Survivors, Mordecai, expressed his gratitude, “The ICEJ contributes a lot to the Haifa Home, and I don’t know if this place would exist without the help of the ICEJ.”

Donate to our new Haifa Home expansion project at: icejusa.org/haifa-home-building-project

ICEJ AID brings comfort to the Jewish people from the oldest generation to the youngest. Recently, ICEJ AID partnered with a new children’s home that houses around 80 children from ages 6–18. Many of these young people have been removed from their homes by the court or social services. This home is extremely important because it provides a loving and safe environment to young people who have been physically and emotionally abused. ICEJ AID has stepped in to help provide new furniture to help these young people feel more at home.

The director of the home expressed her thanks by saying, “In honor of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, the children of Neve Hanna as well as former children of Neve Hanna serving in the army thank you from the bottom of their heart for your most generous donation. Thanks to your donation, the children enjoy their new furniture in their renovated flats.”

Partner with us today at: icejusa.org/aid
What makes an army strong? The answer seems obvious: superior combat power that defeats the enemy. But how is that combat power generated? If tanks and kits can’t get to the front line, the IDF’s combat power is diminished. If wounded soldiers are not evacuated and treated with the best care possible, soldiers’ motivation to take risks is lowered, and they might not fully recover to fight another day.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) City of Bases south of Beersheva is a huge complex housing schools for various combat service support functions, e.g. the IDF’s School for Medicine, School for Logistics, and the School for Military Police. At any given time 3,000 recruits and cadets are undergoing training and educational activities at this desert base.

Without these combat service support functions, the army would quickly suffer exhaustion and dysfunction. Yet, the City of Bases contains one more educational unit that lends essential strength to the young men and women protecting Israel, and which has always been part of the IDF’s fighting spirit.

Yad Vashem’s Spiritual and Ethical Components

The moral fiber of an army is a combination of why and how it fights its battles. If an army does not fight with honor and integrity, it loses the deeper underlying battle. This is why Yad Vashem so highly prioritizes its moral contribution to military education and why the ICEJ is proud to partner with them to do so.

At the City of Bases, Yad Vashem has a small but innovative teaching space for Holocaust education. However, the Holocaust itself is only part of the context. The main purpose is to equip and build Israel’s young men and women at arms into morally and ethically excellent soldiers and individuals. The school’s dictum: “The Image of Man in the Shadow of Death” testifies to this. One might see this as denoting a dark sentiment, but it is an effort meant to maintain human dignity and identity, both in oneself and in one’s perception of the enemy.

Educational activities focus on core ethical questions related to power and ethics, empathy and basic humanity, which alert students to the pitfalls and dangers of wielding power over others. Studying the Nazis’ decision-making process and acts of dehumanization helps students understand the need for empathy, even with enemies.

Widening the Reach – Increasing the Impact

To better teach and accommodate the many thousands of students that pass through the City of Bases, Yad Vashem hopes to construct a new building. This new, expanded and enhanced learning center will help ensure that the IDF continues to excel as the moral and ethical army that has won all Israel’s victories since 1948. This is why the ICEJ and the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem wholly support the project to expand and enhance Yad Vashem’s educational center at the City of Bases.

Build a strong ethical base for young Israeli soldiers and maintain the IDF’s call to moral excellence by investing in Yad Vashem’s new educational center.

Visit [www.icejusa.org/yvs_school](http://www.icejusa.org/yvs_school) to give your vital donation.
The ICEJ would like to congratulate Susan McElroy Michael, our US Branch Director, on being awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Piedmont International University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on May 4, 2018. The degree was conferred at the 2018 graduation ceremony on the campus of the university.

Dr. Charles Pettit, the president of Piedmont International University, shared that “Dr. Michael was awarded this honorary degree for her outstanding national and international accomplishments and because we believed she would represent us well as an example of the global impact God has called us to have for the cause of Christ at Piedmont as we develop academic initiatives and global partnerships.”

“Susan is an exceptional individual who represents our university’s values and educational training in her ministry,” said Dr. Byron Edens, Vice President of Piedmont International University. “She is a brilliant speaker and shares in a dynamic way the conservative theology concerning Israel that we teach at Piedmont.”

Mrs. Michael already held a Bachelor of Arts in Theology from Oral Roberts University and a Master of Arts in Judeo-Christian Studies from the Institute of Holy Land Studies, now known as the Jerusalem University College, in Jerusalem.

“It was the privilege of studying the Bible in its geographic and cultural setting in Israel that made all of the difference for me. There I was surrounded by proof of the accuracy of the Scriptures and that produced a passion for making that knowledge and experience available to as many people as possible,” explained Mrs. Michael.

As a founding staff member and a current Trustee of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Mrs. Michael has helped to pioneer what has grown into a global movement of Christian support for Israel made up of hundreds of millions of Evangelical Christians worldwide. She has also pioneered Jewish-Evangelical relations over the last 25 years through extensive work with Israeli and American Jewish leaders in Washington D.C. and across the country.

She developed ground-breaking educational programs and tools for churches and individuals on the issues of the biblical significance of Israel, the history of the Jewish people, Jewish-Christian relations, Christian anti-Semitism, Christian support for Israel, Islam, and Middle Eastern Affairs. Michael built the US Branch of the ICEJ into a Scripturally-sound, balanced, and reputable ministry, evidenced in its leadership of one of the strongest networks of Evangelical leaders in America—the American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI).

Founded in 1945, Piedmont International University is an established provider of quality, Bible-centered higher education for effective lifetime ministry. It has grown to over 1,000 students per year and strives to be an internationally recognized leader in innovative, Bible-centered higher education for effective ministry in a constantly changing world.
As the main force behind Farmster, Adam is part of the innovative pioneering light that shines from Israel’s Messianic-Jewish community to the nations. He is a skilled and visionary entrepreneur who took God’s gifting of a top-notch Ivy league education from Harvard University, and later graduate and doctoral degrees from Ben Gurion University, to invest his skills where they would make an impact for those who need it most. ICEJ Tanzania has also realized the important contribution Adam and his team are making, which is why they have partnered with Farmster in Tanzania.

During pilot projects related to agricultural water management in Zambia, Adam became aware of a frightening paradox. On a continent where starvation and food shortages often dominate news headlines, small farmers were discarding perfectly good crops because they had no buyers for them.

The problem is that an average small-crop farmer can only gain exposure to so many buyers, and is usually dependent on middlemen, who take a substantial cut, thus raising prices and restricting demand. Lack of information means that the fundamental mechanisms of supply and demand, which run any efficient market place, are inhibited. The Farmster app provides timely matching information for buyers and sellers and can function exclusively through existing local technologies, such as text messages on simple mobile phones, if necessary.

Farmster is already a viable success
Farmster has already proven to be a viable tool for clearing produce deals in the rural market place. One example concerns two neighbors who lived mere miles from one another but simply were ignorant of the potential business relationship. Had Farmster not made this connection, the farmer would have had to downsize and thus remain stuck in poverty. Even large agro-businesses have been looking to use Farmster. This interest testifies to the viability of the app as an efficient tool that goes beyond the basic concept of one-way aid. In Africa alone, Farmster hopes to disseminate the app to 10 million users.

The ICEJ connection
The ICEJ’s national representative in Tanzania, Pastor Stanton, has been quick to see Farmster’s benefits and is excited about its potential. This is why ICEJ Tanzania is working directly with Farmster’s agent creating contacts and providing platforms to spread the Israeli idea and concept.

For his life-time achievement and exceptional contribution to the nation of Israel, Natan Sharansky, head of the Jewish Agency for Israel for almost a decade, has been awarded Israel’s most prestigious civilian award: the Israel Prize. Mr. Sharansky will receive this high honor on Israel’s 2018 Independence Day. “It’s very exciting. I’m not a man who gets excited about ceremonies and prizes, but there’s something very special about receiving a prize on Israel’s 70th anniversary,” stated Sharansky to the newspaper Israel Hayom.

The ICEJ salutes Natan Sharansky and is pleased that he is recognized with this award. He has been instrumental in the ingathering of Israel’s exiles and has worked closely together with ICEJ’s efforts. His powerful vision for Israel, “We must do everything to ensure that Israel remains a home to every Jew in the world” is a vision we continue to support and strive to fulfil.
ICEJ President Dr Jürgen Bühler visited Taiwan this spring for a special ministry trip. During his time there, the ICEJ’s Taiwan branch held a conference to honor and celebrate Israel’s 70th anniversary. Dr. Bühler, together with Arab pastor Afeef Halasah and Messianic pastor Avi Mizrachi, spoke in several churches about the current situation in Israel and God’s miraculous works in response. The Israeli representative to Taiwan, Mr. Asher Yarden, also attended the celebration: “I feel so touched that many people in Taiwan support Israel and pray for Israel,” he said.

Dr Bühler explained that “70 is an important time span in the Bible. As Moses wrote in Psalm 90, the days of our years are 70 years. Israel endured captivity in Babylon for 70 years, and 70 years later when God remembered and restored his promises to his people under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah, the Jews began to return to their home, Jerusalem. Seventy years ago the nation of Israel was re-established out of the ashes of the Holocaust, and this year we celebrate Israel’s 70th anniversary. Global churches and Christians shall not keep themselves from the work of God in Israel!”

At the end of the conference, the three speakers blessed Taiwan with prayers and gave honor to God for His faithfulness toward Israel.

It was evident that Israel has captured the imagination and attention of Austria’s Christians this spring, as the ICEJ’s Austrian branch attracted a strong cross-denominational showing. Approximately 275 visitors came to hear about God’s prophetic cycle and promises for Israel from ICEJ President Dr Jürgen Bühler and National Director for Austria Karl Klanner. The Austrian branch has been active for 15 years, offering significant support for ICEJ projects, such as the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors and the ingathering of the Jewish people.

This groundswell of support for the ICEJ’s work is also important for Austria, as the country’s recently elected right-wing government, led by the Freedom Party of Austria, is under scrutiny for harboring neo-Nazi sympathies, a concern which was raised by Austrian Jews at the Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism in Jerusalem. It is therefore encouraging that Austria’s Christians are showing solidarity with and interest in Israel.
THE FIRE OF GOD IN INDIA

BY REV. MOJMIR KALLUS

India is a vast subcontinent with a population of more than one billion. Our branch there was established about four years ago with Pastor Dany at the head. Last September, we reported about the miracle restoration he experienced after a gas explosion in his home. The blast demolished the building, and it is a wonder that he and his family escaped alive. Pastor Dany suffered severe burns all over his body. When he lay in pain in the hospital bed, he had a vision of Jesus who asked him: “What do you want me to do?” Pastor Dany started with a small request to be able to move his finger. Contrary to doctors’ predictions, he walked out of the hospital just nine days later with his skin completely restored. Dany wrote a book about his healing, which made him well known all over India. Thus, what Satan meant for destruction, Jesus turned into life and blessing.

The work in India is flourishing. Dany has built a network of over 120 volunteers in 25 of the 29 Indian states, with regional representatives who are mostly pastors. For my visit, he organized meetings in six states for more than 350 pastors. In addition, there was a meeting for Indian leaders, including a former member of the central government, a deputy speaker of the Parliament and other politicians.

Even though the population of Evangelical Christians is estimated only at a few percent, it still means there are between 30 and 50 million born-again believers in the country. One city on the shores of the Bay of Bengal is a testimony to the long Christian tradition in that area. The Apostle Tomas is said to have reached India, and his tomb can be visited today in the city of Chennai. The famous words of Apostle Tomas, “My Lord, my God,” are inscribed in large letters for everyone to see.

Pastor Dany is building a stable branch with great potential, so no wonder the devil wanted to kill him. Let us continue to pray for a revival in India. May the fire of God, not the enemy’s fire, descend on these precious people and turn their hearts to the God of Israel.

A FRESH START IN SOUTH AFRICA

BY REV. MOJMIR KALLUS

In early December, when summer begins in South Africa, I made my first overseas trip as the ICEJ’s VP of International Affairs. My purpose there was to strengthen the local team and meet with many old friends of the Embassy. South Africans were among the founding members of the ICEJ and the country has always played a key role within the ICEJ by supporting our work and sending people to work in Jerusalem and volunteer at the Feast.

In recent months, we had to make some changes to the South African branch, so I decided to go to answer any questions in this regard. I introduced the new team, led by the National Director Vivienne Myburgh, daughter of the late Johann Greef who was the former head of the South African branch. Meetings were organized in Durban, Cape Town, Nelspruit, and Pretoria. The meetings were full of goodwill, healing, and willingness to move forward, and were a friendly time of fellowship. One of the highlights was a lunch for all former board members and founding members, including the first Executive Director of ICEJ Jerusalem, Dr. Johann Luckhoff. It was a good time of restoration.

We also met with local representatives of the Jewish Zionist Federation and with the Israeli Ambassador. I appreciated the level of trust and cooperation our people had with these organizations. The Jewish community in Cape Town even organized an event specifically for their Christian friends. It was there that we witnessed the historic declaration of President Trump recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

The visit marked a new beginning for the branch by establishing many new contacts in different segments of South Africa’s diverse population. I have no doubt that the new team will be able to quickly restart the work and bring back South Africa to the place it deserves, as one of the strongest supporters of Jerusalem.
What Is Christian Zionism?

By Susan Michael, ICEJ USA Director

It is important to define Christian Zionism because of the confusion and controversy surrounding it. To do so, however, we must first discuss what Zionism is and the difference between the usage of the term “Christian Zionist” and “Christian Zionism.”

ZIONISM
The term Zionism today is used to describe the largely secular, political movement that began in the late 1800s and resulted in the founding of the state of Israel in 1948. Therefore, the term Christian Zionism is in a way an oxymoron describing a religious affiliation with a secular movement, which explains some of the confusion and controversy surrounding it.

Moreover, the fact that anti-Israel activists have demonized the term Zionism has had a detrimental effect on the use of the term Christian Zionism as well. It is the same with the term Evangelical Christian; anti-Christian liberals have so demonized the word Evangelical that more and more Christians are no longer using it.

I, for one, do not want to give up on the term Zionism because it is, at its root, a biblical concept. Zion denotes the very place and people God chose for Himself. And Zionism is the political outworking of the longing for a return to Zion which has been at the heart of Jewish prayers and sentiments for over 2000 years.

Zionism is at heart a religious movement that needed political activity to make it a reality. Christian supporters of Israel tend to view Zionism within its biblical context and not as a separate political movement that is somehow distinct and to be disdained. It is a natural progression and necessary expression of the spiritual love for Zion found in the Bible.

CHRISTIAN ZIONISTS
There are many reasons why a Christian may be a Christian Zionist—or a supporter of the return of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland and the modern State of Israel. Let me describe a few.

Personally – Millions of Christians have visited Israel and its holy sites, and seen their Bible come alive in profoundly life-transforming ways. It only stands to reason that these pilgrims return with an excitement about Israel and deep appreciation for the country.

Gratefully – All Christians should support Israel in gratitude for the protection of their Christian brethren there and the atmosphere of peace and security they enjoy as full citizens of the Jewish state. Israel provides the only safe haven for Christians in the Middle East and is consequently the only country in the region in which the Christian community is growing.

Politically – It is vital for all Americans to maintain support of a strong alliance with the only liberal democracy in the Middle East, a country that advances our national interests and shares our values of freedom of speech, freedom of worship, and human rights.

Economically – Support of Israel is a good investment, not just for the United States of America as the investor, but for the blessing of the region. The greatest blessing for the Palestinian people lies in an alliance with Israel through which they would enjoy the benefits of her strong economy and free society.

Legally – One can boldly support Israel whose founding was completely legal and formulated by the community of nations as reflected in the 1917 Balfour Declaration, the 1920 San Remo Conference Resolution, the 1922 League of Nations vote, and the 1947 UN Partition Plan. After the declaration of statehood in 1948, Israel was admitted into the United Nations in 1949 with a majority vote. Her founding was legal and our support is justified.

Morally – The tragic history of Jewish-Christian relations—a history that has been plagued by anti-Semitism perpetuated by confessing Christians—should cause all Christians to seek ways to establish a new relationship with the Jewish people based on mutual respect. Likewise, they should condemn the demonization of the Jewish people and stand with Israel.

Practically – Israel's incredible contributions across the fields of healthcare, agriculture, and technology are saving lives, creating jobs, and enriching communities across the United States. With advances ranging from text messaging to cancer research, and from drip irrigation to the flu vaccine, odds are that innovative Israelis have improved life for you and your family!

Visit us at www.IsraelAnswers.com and get your question about Israel answered!
BIBLICALLY: CHRISTIAN ZIONISM

While those are all reasons for a Christian to be a supporter of Israel and be called a Christian Zionist, we still have not defined the ideology of Christian Zionism. It is, in fact, a theology grounded in both the Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament, that the Abrahamic Covenant, found in Genesis 12, reflects God’s choice of Abraham to birth a nation to be the vehicle of God’s redemptive plan for the world.

This everlasting covenant included the inheritance of the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession although the right of domicile on that land was conditional upon the people’s right relationship with God. The Hebrew prophets, therefore, foretold of judgment resulting in exile, and a day when God would gather His children back to their land and restore them spiritually unto Himself. The return of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland is proof of the faithfulness of God to His promises to Abraham and as such, demands our support.

One of God’s promises to Abraham was, “I will bless those who bless you.” In other words, those who blessed His plan and choice of Israel would also be blessed. This explains why Psalm 122:6 commands us to pray for the peace and well-being of Jerusalem, and as watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem in Isaiah 62:6–7, we should pray with great fervor and persistence until all of God’s promises to the Jewish people are fulfilled.

With such a firm biblical foundation for support of the Jewish people, it is no surprise to find that many of the fathers of the Bible-based Evangelical Christian movement preached from the Scriptures the return of the Jewish people to their ancient homeland and the blessing this return would bring upon the world. They include John and Charles Wesley, Robert Murray MacCheynne, Charles Spurgeon, and many of the Puritan preachers, to name a few.

One must conclude that while there are many convincing arguments based on history, morality, and plain old common sense to support Israel, that for Bible-based Christians, the biblical basis for Christian support of Israel—Christian Zionism—trumps them all and demands our lifelong pursuit of the good of the Jewish people. Therefore, we are here for Israel’s next 70 years!
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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