A Testimony of Healing

By Dr. Jürgen Bühler

Mission of the ICEJ
Dear Friends,

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months” (James 5:17).

Recently in Jerusalem, we recounted how powerfully Jesus answered many of our prayers at the ICEJ staff meetings or through the Isaiah62 Prayer Initiative. One of them was my own health situation, where we saw a powerful restoration. You will read about it in this issue and I pray that my testimony will encourage you to trust the Lord for a miracle in your own lives. As a family we want to express our gratitude to all those who stood with us in prayer.

Another amazing answer to prayer we saw was regarding the stalled Ethiopian Aliyah. Prime Minister Nethanyahu finally gave the green light for the operation to begin in the coming weeks. A person working closely with the authorities called it a “huge miracle.” We know it was an answered prayer. Ethiopian Aliyah is indeed a modern day miracle and we are privileged to take part in it. Please continue to pray for it and consider supporting it financially.

There were many more answered prayers that we counted with our staff and it all confirmed that God hears us and He wants us to bring our requests before Him. God does not expect us to be “spiritual superheroes” when we pray. Elijah, whom we consider a spiritual giant, was called by James an ordinary man just like you and me. But, Elijah put his trust into God’s hands, thus God could do extraordinary things through this ordinary man.

I want to encourage you today to join our Isaiah62 Prayer Initiative and become part of this powerful movement. Prayer lies at the core of our ministry and it touches the heart of God. One of the main burdens we currently carry in prayer is the Feast of Tabernacles. We hope you can join us in Jerusalem, but if you cannot attend, please stand with us in prayer! Pray that God would use this Feast in mighty ways. Visit our website at www.icejusa.org/prayer to pledge and join the Isaiah62 initiative. I look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director
A Testimony of Healing

ICEJ Mission

Why Hasn’t There Been Peace?

Young Adults Bless Israel

A First Fruit Offering at Sukkot
“I AM THE LORD WHO HEALS YOU”

A TESTIMONY OF HEALING

“BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS: WHO FORGIVES ALL YOUR INIQUITIES, WHO HEALS ALL YOUR DISEASES, WHO REDEEMS YOUR LIFE FROM DESTRUCTION.” (PSALM 103:2-4)

BY DR. JÜRGEN BÜHLER
IN LATE NOVEMBER, I found myself at Shaarei Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem for what I thought were routine tests. A few days later, the doctor gave my wife, Vesna, and me the results: The diagnosis was advanced kidney cancer, with a mass growing out from the kidney into the main vein, winding “like a snake” towards my heart. “The good news is,” said the doctor, “that it is operable.” However, he immediately advised we seek a hospital abroad, as very few Israeli doctors had the experience to treat such a rare and severe case.

My survival rate, in his estimation, was fifty percent, and even lower for a successful removal of the cancerous growth, as it had spread inside my abdomen. The serious expression on his face showed he did not have much hope for me.

For my family and I, that November morning changed everything. We had just celebrated a blessed and successful Feast of Tabernacles, and I was busy preparing for a symposium at the European Parliament in December. As a family, we anticipated welcoming home our son, David, at Christmas, during a break from his studies in Germany. In January, Vesna and I were scheduled to attend the Global Prayer Quake in Nigeria, and later that month, we anticipated over 150 Pastors to join us at Envision, the ICEJ Pastors and Leaders Conference in Jerusalem.

But, in one moment, everything stopped. All these plans came crashing down and the fervent pace of our lives was brought to a painful and grinding halt. In the hospital, Vesna and I cried together, and arriving home a few days later, I felt completely devastated. I clearly recall sitting on our sofa, watching our children, and thinking: “This could be my last few months with my family.”

Realizing that my only hope was for Jesus to heal me, I asked Juha Ketola, my friend and ICEJ’s International Director, to mobilize our prayer network. While doctors repeatedly referred to this cancerous “snake” in my body, we held on to our hope in Jesus. Both Vesna and I understood it was a spiritual problem, requiring a spiritual solution.

On my first morning home from the hospital, something supernatural happened: When I got up that morning I felt a change in my spirit, but it wasn’t just me. To my surprise, each member of our family felt a lifting of their spirit as well. With the flick of a switch, supernatural faith and peace came flooding into our hearts. This peace surpassed our understanding and was in total contradiction to my medical circumstances. Today we know this was the impact of prayers from our brothers and sisters around the world who carried us.

At that time, I also suggested to Vesna that, for the next two weeks, we should open our home and invite our friends to share communion, pray with us, and trust God that this snake would leave my body. Vesna immediately agreed and for the next few weeks we hosted the most amazing prayer gatherings. The presence of Jesus was very powerful in those meetings and everybody who entered our home testified to it.

Both Messianic and Arab pastors from all over Israel traveled to join us in prayer and were of great encouragement to us. Also, the staff and volunteers of the ICEJ were praying and fasting with us, regularly joining us for the evening prayer and communion. I received a word of encouragement that many congregations in Israel and numerous believers around the world carried us in their prayers. Some of the ICEJ branches even initiated 24/7 prayer chains for this cause. The many letters and calls we received throughout that difficult time lifted us up daily.

Something that amazed me in this process was when other people, joining our evening meetings, experienced healing themselves! Yet nothing seemed to be changing in my own body. We felt overcome by God’s supernatural peace, but my physical state remained unchanged. The follow-up scans only confirmed the initial, hopeless diagnosis.
In the midst of it, I learned to thank the Lord daily for the amazing wife He has given me. Time and time again Vesna proved to be a rock that stood firm in this stormy situation. Like a general, she was full of unwavering hope for victory, and encouraged the entire family.

Additionally, our children were blessed to be a part of the believing community in Jerusalem, which gave them much strength. The private school that our two youngest children attend organized daily prayer for our family with the entire student body. Some teachers fasted for us and visited with us for prayer as well. Our sons, Nethanel and Simon, attended a weekly prayer watch at Succat Hallel, a local prayer house. Many times they would return home having received affirmation from the Lord that their daddy would be healed. Our oldest son, David, had similar experiences at his Bible school in Germany.

Another great blessing to us was our home congregation, especially our Pastors Oded and Sandy Shoshani. The entire community covered us in prayer, love, and support. Throughout the entire journey they kept the faith and prayed with us for a supernatural healing that would make the highly invasive and dangerous operation unnecessary. The prayers and visits of many Jewish friends and partners were a great encouragement as well. Some even shared special prayer meetings in their synagogues.

For me personally, this difficult season became a time of reviewing my life. Since the doctors felt my chances for survival were very limited, I began to look at my family, ministry, and my own life with new eyes. God challenged me to look at many areas of my life from a new perspective. Although I wouldn’t have chosen this trial for myself, today I am very thankful to God for this time. I became more thankful and appreciative of the Body of Christ, both here in Israel and around the world, as I got to experience first-hand how much we need each other.

In late December, we found the right surgeon to perform my operation in Germany. Good family friends from the German region of Saxony recommended a doctor in Dresden, a world expert in his field. To our relief, he agreed to perform the operation. The date was set for the end of January, so in the meantime we continued to pray and to gather in our home.

Upon our arrival in Dresden, Germany, we requested one final ultrasound – still believing for a miracle. The results however were very sobering. “Much of your abdomen is unrecognizable,” said
the doctor. “Everything is full of cancer.” The next morning, I was brought to the operating room. The surgery took much longer than planned. Vesna called again and again to talk to the doctor, only to receive the same response: “They are still operating.” Finally, she was asked to come.

“Come sit down in my office,” a doctor said welcoming her. “There were complications. Your husband lost a lot of blood, so we had to put him in an induced coma, which could last a few days.” Vesna learned I received 25 units of blood and the specialist told her it was one of the most complex operations he had ever done. Nevertheless, to everyone’s surprise, I woke up the very next morning, though still in a life-threatening condition.

One of the great lessons I took from that particular time was that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of salvation. After two months of facing almost certain death and being in critical condition for 24 hours after surgery, I didn’t know whether my body would recover. Today, I can say with all confidence that Heaven was waiting to welcome me. I pleaded with the Lord for healing, because I felt my family needed me and I wanted an opportunity to serve the Lord more fully. But, there was no fear of death.

I appreciated this peace even more in the hospital when I shared the recovery room with an elderly man who, also having undergone a serious surgery, cried for help for fear of death. During the night he called for his WWII comrades to help him, even for the “Sondereinsatzkommando,” a notorious Nazi-unit, to get him out. I realized that on our deathbed our philosophies and beliefs are tested. I came to personally appreciate more than ever there is only one Name given to men which can take away the sting of death and that name is Jesus.

The day after I woke up a remarkable restoration started to take place. Ten days after the operation I was permitted to leave the hospital and, just two weeks later, my family and I were on the airplane back to Israel. In February, I went back to my doctor in Jerusalem, who had first diagnosed me in November. I will never forget his reaction when he saw me: His mouth dropped open, and a few seconds later a big smile followed. “Jürgen, you are here!” he shouted. I realized he did not expect me to come back. Another doctor told me: “You have been walking for months with an angel of death on your shoulder. But, I know that you are people of faith.”

God did a miracle! After the first blood test I took in Israel, the doctor said to me: “Jürgen, you have the blood of an eighteen year old.” In April, I resumed my work at the ICEJ and my latest check-up showed no signs of cancer! God is good! He is our healer. Isaiah 53:4-5 declares that He “bore our sicknesses” and that “by His stripes we are healed.” In Exodus 15:26 God declares “I am the Lord who heals you.” Literally, it says “I am the Lord your physician.”

During my battle with this sickness we made a decision as a family. We said to Jesus, “You are our family doctor.” This means whatever is happening, we will first seek Him in prayer and consult with His expertise. In my case, God referred me to an expert doctor in Germany. Others who joined our prayer gatherings in Jerusalem were healed instantly.

All in all, our lives are in His hands. Whatever your situation is, I want to encourage you to keep the faith – in the Lord and in His promises. He is the same yesterday, today, and forevermore. You might say, “Jürgen, I do not have as many intercessors as you did.” The truth is, it takes just a touch of the hem of Jesus’ garment to make the difference. Even a single prayer makes a difference. If you want us to pray with you, I invite you to send us your prayer request and we will intercede for you at our staff prayer meetings here in Jerusalem.

I finally want to thank everyone who prayed and stood with us. It was truly humbling to see the outpouring of love and support that we received from so many places around the world. God is a prayer-answering God, and He hears the cry of His children. Thank you for standing with us. I want to extend great thanks to Juha Ketola – who never lost faith – and the entire ICEJ family, who stood with us in fasting and prayer. I am blessed to work with each one of you in Jerusalem.

Please continue to pray for us: For continued health and for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to fulfill all He has called us to do here in Israel and in the nations.

With a thankful heart,

Jürgen Bühler, together with Vesna and children David, Nethanel, Simon and Yael

To submit your prayer request go to: www.icejusa.org/prayerrequest
In 1980, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) was established to answer God’s call, “Comfort, comfort my people” (Is 40:1). When all international embassies left Jerusalem that same year, the founding of the ICEJ was warmly welcomed by both the government and the people of Israel.

Today the ICEJ has become a leading voice of Christian support for Israel. With offices in over 80 nations the ICEJ represents millions of Bible believing Christians from around the world. From our headquarters in Jerusalem we strive to reach every sector of Israel’s society with God’s love, reaching out to all of Israel, irrespective of their ethnic or religious background. Around the world the ICEJ has become a major voice against anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism.

Whether our work is among holocaust survivors or new immigrants, youth at risk, the Druze community or Christian Arabs, the ICEJ is your Embassy in Jerusalem!

**Give Your Best Gift Today!**

Every financial gift, regardless of size, impacts the lives of Israelis and is a tangible demonstration of Christian compassion and love.

Go to [www.icejusa.org/donate](http://www.icejusa.org/donate) to make your contribution to the work of the ICEJ in Israel!

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**A Quick Look At The History Of ICEJ**

- **1980**: The International Christian Embassy is established in Jerusalem
- **1981**: The ICEJ launches the Mordechai Outcry demanding the release of Soviet Jewry
- **1985**: The ICEJ launches first Christian Zionist Congress in Basel Switzerland
- **1991**: The ICEJ receives Knesset Award for outstanding service to Israel
- **1992**: The ICEJ partners with Israel in rescuing 13,000 Ethiopian Jews in “Operation Solomon”
- **2001**: The ICEJ produces biblical musical called “The Covenant” at the Jerusalem Arts Festival. This production travels the whole of Israel, Europe and the USA.
- **2003**: The ICEJ begins a young adult ministry called Grafted (later name changed to Arise)
At its core, the ICEJ is people like you - with a God-given passion for the people of Israel, who work together to accomplish what they could never do alone.

1. To show concern for the Jewish people and especially for the reborn State of Israel.

2. To mobilize Christians to pray for Jerusalem, Israel and the region.

3. To demonstrate practical Christian love for the well-being of all who live here, irrespective of race, background or religion.

4. To be a reconciling influence between Jews and Arabs.

5. To inform Christians from all over the world of what is taking place in Israel and how to be rightly related to her.

6. To empower Christian leaders, churches and organizations to fight modern day anti-Semitism.

7. To represent the love and concern of Bible-believing Christians from around the world towards the modern state and people of Israel.

Our outreach through print publication, social media, satellite and cable TV reaches into almost every country in the world, every single day touching thousands of believers with God’s heart for Israel.

ICEJ events held throughout the year bring people from around the world to Israel to be challenged and inspired. From the Feast of Tabernacles to Envision Pastors and Leaders Conference, delegates return to their communities with a fresh perspective on Israel and the role they can play in God’s master plan.

Whether it is the ICEJ Home for Holocaust survivors, our assistance with Aliyah and absorption, the outreach for youth at risk, help for minorities in Israel, educational programs for the needy – these are all practical opportunities to show YOUR love and concern for the Jewish people.

Come and join the ICEJ family and experience what God is doing in Israel. Explore how He may use you personally to comfort His people. The work of the ICEJ is a practical, hands-on way to comfort God’s people one at a time. Join us today!
Arise Summer Tour 2016 brought together a colorful representation from over 11 different nations, including a former Muslim from Azerbaijan. The young adults arrived in the Holy Land expecting a unique encounter with the God of Israel and encountering the Lord is exactly what happened, although in many unexpected ways!

**THE JOURNEY**

The crew of ICEJ Arise wanted to give the young people a comprehensive look at the great nation of Israel from many different angles. Starting in the booming metropolis of Tel Aviv, participants enjoyed jumping into the Mediterranean for the first time in their lives and were shocked to see the modern beachfront and promenade in this vibrant city. Next, we headed south through the Negev desert, paused at the Ramon Crater to take in the breathtaking views, and finished in the very South of the country: The city of Eilat. On the agenda in Eilat was snorkeling in the Red Sea and admiring Israel’s famous coral reefs, as well as a visit to Timna National Park, with its replica of the biblical tabernacle.

Along the route from Eilat, by the way of the Dead Sea, we stopped for a night in the Negev, experienced Bedouin life, and worshipped under the stars. Afterwards, Tiberias by the Sea of Galilee became the base for several forays into the north over the next few days. This included visits to many biblical sites in the Galilee, as well as the Golan Heights, near the border with Syria. Finally, we capped off the last four days of the tour ascending to Jerusalem, the pinnacle of our journey. Some highlights of this capital city included the Old City of Jerusalem, Garden Tomb, and Yad Vashem museum.

In short, the group saw Israel from east to west, north to south. From swimming in every major body of water in Israel to tasting each climate zone, participants experienced life in Israel in many unexpected ways!

**THE EXPERIENCE**

In the midst of sightseeing, swimming and fun, the Lord profoundly impacted each participant. From the first day, prayer and worship was central to the tour. This group of almost 60 passionate young people praying and declaring the goodness of God all over Israel and the surrounding nations was bound to have spiritual effects reaching far beyond what meets the eye.
Two powerful highlights stick out in my memory. One was ascending the mountains outside Eilat to pray for Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Then, in the Golan Heights, we went up Mount Bental to intercede for Lebanon and war-torn Syria. What a meaningful experience! Mathieu, a Bible College student from Winnipeg, Canada, said this was “one of the most memorable highlights of the trip” for him, as it was for many others. It was also incredible for everyone to witness the first-time baptisms of nine young people in the Jordan River. Shouts of rejoicing and tears of joy resounded through the Yardenit Baptismal Site while all the voices sang out ‘10,000 Reasons’ and ‘How Great is our God’ as the young men and women publicly declared their love for Jesus.

Participants’ eyes were opened to the reality of life for a believer in Israel as well, with all its struggles and joys. A beautiful Shabbat dinner was shared in Jerusalem, where we learned some songs and traditions from the light of a new covenant in Yeshua (Hebrew name of Jesus). Finally, at the headquarters of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, advocacy training was given to equip them to stand with Israel and combat modern-day anti-Semitism in their home countries.

**THE LEGACY**
By the end of the trip, the love for Israel, its people and for one another abounded. With the participants’ expectations blown out of the water and strong, new relationships created, the Arise Summer Tour 2016 came to a close, and a group of zealous young believers left the Land of Promise ready to tell the world about the unexpected miracle that is the modern state of Israel.

**DO NOT MISS the exciting opportunity to see the land of Israel with other likeminded young adults!**

Dates for Arise Summer Tour 2017 coming soon! Follow Arise ICEJ on facebook for latest info!
IMPACT THE FUTURE
BY SENDING A YOUNG ADULT ON ONE OF OUR 2017 TOURS TO ISRAEL

ISRAEL IMPACT TOUR
JUNE 19-30, 2017

ARISE SUMMER TOUR
WATCH FOR DATES!

“The tour is like 4 years of Bible college wrapped up into 10 exciting days!”
- Dustin Lee, Lancaster, PA

Send a young adult to Israel!
The ICEJ USA invites you to join us in raising up a generation of young adults who are biblically grounded and connected to God’s plans and purposes for Israel and the world.

Our Israel Impact Tour and Arise Summer Tour were created to give young adults a life-changing experience in the land of the Bible where they will gain a heart for the people of Israel, be inspired to greater depths of faith, and be encouraged to step into the will and calling of God for their life.

To learn more about our 2 upcoming tours please visit:
www.us.icej.org/arise

To help a young adult go on an ICEJ tour contact Peter Ecenroad at:
peter.ecenroad@icejusa.org // 888-772-7732 ext. 742
For Pastor Appreciation Month in October, give your pastor a gift that will change his life and impact his ministry.

For more information or to register please contact tours@icejusa.org.

Call 866-393-5890  www.icejusa.org/tours
HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH FOR ETHIOPIAN JEWS

Government decides to include Ethiopian Aliyah in state budget

BY ESTERA WIEJA

For decades the remaining Jews in Ethiopia wondered whether they would ever be reunited with their families in Israel.

Recent political and economic unrest caused added pressure to their hardship. Gondar and Oromia, the regions where the majority of Jews live, is currently stricken by deadly violence perpetrated by indigenous tribes which has left almost 100 people dead. Many Jews have already fled. Often on foot, they travel hundreds of miles to the city of Addis Ababa where many of them are living today under difficult circumstances.

After many decades of waiting, the Israeli government finally agreed last year that it would allow the remaining 9,000 Falash Mura to return to Israel. There was great rejoicing among the Jewish community in Ethiopia. The mood was quickly dampened, however, as the Israeli government failed to include the absorption of Ethiopian Jews into their annual budget. To absorb thousands of Jews is a massive challenge, as huge sums are needed to educate and integrate a community that is far more distant from Israeli education than any other Jewish community in the world.

But, in August this year, after a 21-hour-long budget meeting, the ‘Absorption of Ethiopian Jews’ was allocated into the government budget! Now, every year, some 1,400 Falash Mura will be welcomed to Israel with the Israeli government guaranteeing special grants and educational programs for every family.

According to the Jewish Agency, the first arrivals could take place in the coming weeks as an initial group of 90 was pre-approved last year. Our prayers are that they will arrive before the Feast of Tabernacles celebrations. From November onward a continuous flow of immigrants is expected from Ethiopia.

Earlier this year, the Lord placed on our heart to pledge funds for the flights of the first 500 Ethiopian Jews. Each flight costs around $800. We thank God that through your generosity we have reached that goal. But, since the government budget did not include the flights to Israel, more help is needed to bring the rest of the Ethiopian Jews home.

Please continue to stand with us. It would be a marvelous testimony if all of the 1,400 flights could be covered by Christians from around the world. What we see today could be the last chapter of the Ethiopian Aliyah. We are privileged to be a part of writing these pages. Please stand with us in this historic task!

HELP ICEJ BRING THEM HOME!

Become part of this historic opportunity to return the Falash Mura to their homeland. Give your most generous gift to the Ethiopian Aliyah today! www.icejusa.org/ethiopia
After some 2700 years, an ancient tribe of Israel is finally returning to their homeland. The following story chronicles the challenges of man’s journey, but it echoes the footsteps of many others.

Takele made this journey at the age of 17, and still remembers the many threats he faced coming to Israel. Like numerous other Ethiopian Jews, he set out from his village on foot along an often-used escape route through Sudan. The month-long journey was dangerous and he mostly walked at night: in a Muslim country like Sudan, Jews, if captured, could be killed on the spot. Thankfully he found shelter in a refugee camp in Sudan.

After waiting an entire year Takele finally made it to Israel. The modern, technologically-highly advanced city of Tel Aviv, was shockingly different from his remote village in Ethiopia. Everything was different: the culture, educational system, job market, and, not to mention, the language. As a man of faith, Takele was surprised to discover that not all Jews were religiously observant and that not all Jewish people were black!

Takele quickly realized he needed an education to survive in this new environment. He went on to successfully complete engineering studies and then serve in the Israeli Air Force. Despite his personal success, Takele remained deeply concerned for his community, many of whom were not successfully integrating into the society.

Today, Takele is one of the many Ethiopian social workers the ICEJ partners with to assist Ethiopian Jews with their absorption process.

Join us as we write the final chapters of the Ethiopian Aliyah to Israel! Give your most generous gift to the Ethiopian Aliyah today! www.icejusa.org/ethiopia

Learn more about the Ethiopian Aliyah from the ICEJ Report online. Visit www.icejusa.org/aliyah to watch our latest video on this unique endeavor! You can watch this and other ICEJ Reports every week on Israel Now News on Daystar Television Network. For air times please check the network’s website.

ICEJ TV IS YOUR WINDOW TO ISRAEL! For more information and to support this vital ministry, visit: www.icejusa.org/broadcasthope
Many new immigrants arrive in Israel after escaping harsh conditions in their countries of origin, such as war-torn Ukraine, only to quickly face the long and difficult process of adapting to a new home culture. They must learn the Hebrew language to find employment, and set up a household with basic items for their families.

Faced with these unexpected challenges many new immigrants wonder whether moving to Israel was not a mistake. The prophet Amos declares that in these last days God is planting his people in Israel and they shall not be uprooted again. Whether through vocational training for new immigrants, or other much-needed services, the ICEJ is helping it to happen.

Just recently, on a visit to an Absorption Center in Be’er Sheva, the ICEJ presented a special gift donated by Christian friends from different parts of the world to 48 new immigrants from Russia and Ukraine, many of whom were doctors or were from other medical backgrounds.

ICEJ Aid Director, Nicole Yoder, told the immigrants how exciting it was to see them in the Promised Land: “When I open my Bible, it says that one day you would come back here. And, we see this happening right now!” Then she added: “These gifts were sent specially to you by Christians who want to bless you and it comes from their heart.”

Elena S., a doctor from Russia, explained that she came to Israel first, while her husband and children joined her months later. She is optimistic about finding a job after finishing the absorption program, which includes a professional course for medical doctors.

Your gift to the work of ICEJ ensures that many new immigrants have room and board upon arrival, receive professional courses, Hebrew classes, and more. Together we can give them a positive start in their new land.

Partner with us and participate in the restoration of the People of Israel! Your financial gift to ICEJ Aid is vital in this work! www.icejusa.org/aid
PRAYER CALL: ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN!

BY DAVID PARSONS

PRAY FOR ISRAEL
The people of Israel, like those everywhere, have been closely watching the violence and upheavals shaking the entire Middle East. So far, Israel remains the most stable country in the region, thanks to a strong economy, military and political leadership.

Thank God for His hand of blessing and protection over Israel, and pray His glorious plans for this nation will be hastened in its time (Isaiah 60:22).

PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
Meantime, the numerous conflicts raging in the surrounding countries now include civil wars and insurgencies in Libya, Yemen, the Egyptian Sinai, Iraq, and – worst of all – in Syria. These armed clashes are being waged between three main adversaries: Iran and its Shi’ite proxies, backed by Russia; ISIS and other Sunni jihadist militias; and finally the more moderate Sunni Arab regimes in Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf emirates. Because the US administration has backed away in recent years from its traditional regional allies and instead courted Iran, many Sunni Arab leaders are looking elsewhere for an anchor of support, and increasingly they are turning to Israel.

In recent months Egypt’s foreign minister paid a rare visit to Jerusalem, while key Saudi figures have been discreetly opening contacts with Israeli officials. But, this newfound cooperation, while based on mutual interests, can only go so far without a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians. Knowing this, the Palestinian leadership is trying to scuttle any rapprochement between Jerusalem and the pro-Western Sunni bloc.

Pray the Palestinians would finally have the courage and will to make peace with Israel (Psalm 34:14; 1 Peter 3:11). Also, pray that Israel would enjoy better relations with its moderate Sunni Arab neighbors, and the threats posed by Iran and ISIS would be completely dispelled (Psalm 68). “As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; As wax melts before the fire...” (Psalm 68:1-2). Lastly, pray that God’s redemptive purposes for the region would quickly come to pass (Isaiah 19:23-15).

PRAY FOR THE ICEJ
Thank you for praying with us for the Ethiopian Aliyah – God is answering it already! The government of Israel opened the doors for the Jews in Ethiopia to return home. Let’s continue praying that their journey will happen swiftly and go smoothly. We also ask you to pray for the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles in October, and for all the pilgrims as they make plans to attend this year’s celebration in Jerusalem. The Psalmist said: “Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage... They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion” (Psalm 84:5, 7).

Please pray that everyone whose heart desires to be at this year’s Feast would be able to come and indeed encounter the living God in Zion.

Join the Isaiah 62 initiative of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem as we corporately pray for Jerusalem, the nation of Israel, and the Middle East:

• Join as an individual prayer warrior at www.icejusa.org/isaiah62
• Begin an Isaiah 62 prayer group in your community
• Join us in fasting and praying on behalf of Israel every month
WHY HASN'T THERE BEEN PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

By Susan Michael

Since its establishment in 1948, Israel has fought in seven wars, been confronted with Palestinian intifadas, and suffered countless random acts of terrorism against her citizens. So, after 67 years of conflict, why is there still no peace in the Middle East? The answer is quite simple: Israel has no willing partner for peace.

The Palestinian leadership has consistently “never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity” for peace. In 2002, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat rejected Israel's offer to create a Palestinian state on 97% of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In 2008, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert made another generous offer to the Palestinian Authority: Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and land equivalent to 100% of the West Bank. Again, the Palestinian leadership walked away from the negotiating table.

The past 80 years of history proves that Palestinian leaders do not want an independent state. Instead, the Palestinian leadership’s principal objective continues to be the destruction of Israel.

For this reason the Palestinian leadership has never agreed to the basic security arrangements necessary to protect the Israeli people. Instead, if a Palestinian state were to be created tomorrow, nearly half of the Palestinian population would be ruled by Hamas - a violent terrorist organization fundamentally opposed to peace.

Another major obstacle to peace is the Palestinian leadership’s refusal to renounce the “right of return” for Palestinian refugees. The so-called “right of return” means that millions of descendants of Palestinian refugees would settle in Israel. No Israeli leader would ever accept the “right of return,” as it would mean the end of Israel. Yet, the Palestinian leadership has never told its own people that this claim will have to be forfeited in order to achieve peace.

The Palestinian Authority also refuses to prepare their people for the future possibility of two-states living in peace. Instead, it fosters a culture of hate against Israelis and Jews in Palestinian mosques, schools, and media. Jews are demonized, Israelis are falsely accused, and Palestinian children are taught to aspire to murder them. All while consistently denying Israel’s right to exist.

Time and time again, the Israeli government has extended an olive branch of peace to Palestinian leadership and time and time again, these efforts have been met with rejection from Palestinian leadership.

If international leaders really want peace between Israel and the Palestinians, then they need to admit where the problem lies and require serious changes from the Palestinian leadership.
First Fruit Offering
FEAST OF SUKKOT IS A TIME TO GIVE

When the Jews went up to Jerusalem three times a year for the pilgrimage festivals, they were commanded to not appear before God empty-handed (Dt 16:16). Each feast was one of thanksgiving: For Israel to commemorate God’s provision during their history as a nation and in their personal lives by bringing a generous offering to Him. Even Paul the Apostle, who we know was in Jerusalem for these holidays (Acts 20:16), must have presented the gifts he collected from the churches across Greece and countries in Asia, to assist the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

I encourage you today to prayerfully consider a special contribution this year during the Feast of Sukkot (Tabernacles). Whether you come up to Jerusalem for the Feast or you join us via our live-stream, it is your opportunity to be a blessing to Israel. Make a special offering to the Lord from your family, company, home group, or even church, and dedicate it to the work that God wants to do in Israel. Even if you can’t be in Jerusalem personally, the Feast of Tabernacles is still a special opportunity to bless the Jewish people.

Also, I want to encourage you to send us your prayer requests before the Feast. Last year we brought more than 10,000 individual requests to the Lord. We know that God hears the prayers of His children, and we want to intercede on your behalf here in Jerusalem also this year.

May the Lord bless you richly out of Zion!

DR. JÜRGEN BÜHLER
ICEJ Executive Director

To give a special Feast of Tabernacles gift to our work in Israel, you can do it on our website: www.icejusa.org/first-fruit
Or bring the gift with you to Jerusalem!

To send a prayer request, please fill out the form on our website: www.icejusa.org/prayerrequest
16-21 OCTOBER 2016
IN JERUSALEM
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FEAST
of
TABERNACLES

PRESENTED BY INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

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