FIRE TRUCKS & SHELTERS FOR SOUTHERN ISRAEL
Dear Friends,

I was recently in southern Israel where I was able to view the devastation brought by the recent spate of terrorist arson attacks. I saw destroyed crops, burnt trees, and met some of the farmers and community leaders affected. It was truly heartbreaking.

The ICEJ was invited there to receive thanks for our quick assistance in their time of need. Thanks to our generous donors we purchased 17 firefighting trailers that would allow the entire region to quickly reach and put out fires before they burned out of control. With us was a representative of Kenneth Copeland Ministries/Eagle Mountain International Church who had purchased 11 of those 17 trailers.

These firefighting trailers not only protect communities from fires but also bring the people a sense of security. The fact that Christians purchased them encourages the residents letting them know they are not alone and that millions of Christians are standing with them.

The strength and determination of the community leaders we met was a real inspiration to all of the ICEJ team that day. Thank you to the American family of the ICEJ for your generous support of Israel and for responding so quickly to Israel in this time of need.

I hope you will be inspired as you read this month’s magazine. We appreciate your prayers and partnership.

Many blessings from Jerusalem,

Dr Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ President

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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CONTENTS

4 Israel at 70

Days of Fulfillment

7 Israeli Farms Destroyed by Terrorism

8 Fire Trailers for Southern Israel

10 Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors

14 Why is Gaza Such a Problem?
eventy, or derivatives of seven in the Bible, constitute the idea of rich fulfillment. For instance, Moses appointed 70 elders to help him fulfill the daunting mission that God gave him in terms of leading a million people out of Egypt (Numbers 11:16). The great exile of Judah to Babylon that took place in the sixth century before Christ would be fulfilled after 70 years (Jeremiah 25:12), and thus when the prophet Daniel read this in the book of Jeremiah, he fasted and prayed about the fulfillment of this promise (Daniel 9:2). Daniel also received an oracle from heaven that announced that Israel’s unique destiny on the earth would be fulfilled after 70 weeks of years (Daniel 9:24–27).

In terms of the New Testament Scriptures, we are told that Jesus appointed 70 disciples to help Him fulfill the mission that God His Father had given Him (Luke 10:1, 17). Jesus told us that we are to forgive others who offend us “seventy times seven times” in order to fulfill the demands of God’s righteousness in us (Matthew 18:22). Also, in the end, we all have three score years and ten in order to fulfill God’s personal plan for each of us on earth (Psalm 90:10).

From all of this, we understand that in God’s economy, 70 designates fulfillment or evidence of His allotted purpose. So, in terms of Israel, the message is clear: her existence is no accident of history, but clear fulfillment of God’s plan and purpose for her and for the world. She is God’s vehicle of world redemption, and His actions in her modern-day restoration are a herald of great things to come.

**God’s Promises to Abraham**

Indeed Israel’s existence rests on unconditional and everlasting promises that God made to Abraham and His descendants. She is therefore evidence of these and a clear testimony to the Church—and the world at large—that the God of the Bible fulfills His promises. This is precisely why we can trust Him fully in all things.

To Israel, by Abraham, God promised land as an everlasting possession (Genesis 17:7–8). He promised that the blessings of eternal salvation would flow to the world from her by the coming of a “Seed Messiah” (Genesis 22:18; John 4:22), and that blessings and curses would fall upon many depending on how they related to her (Genesis 12:1–3).

Today, Israel stands strong at 70 because the nation is beloved “for the sake of the fathers” (Romans 11:28), meaning that the God of the Bible does not lie and will therefore not turn back on
the undertakings that He made to Abraham. Abraham is forever God’s friend, and the God we serve does not turn His back on His friends—although many in the Church assert that He does! Israel’s modern-day restoration is a vexing contradiction to the wayward theological thinking of those who espouse replacement theology, and it exposes their inability to rightly understand the character of God.

**God’s Prophetic Markers**

Israel’s modern restoration has taken place because God has fully honored and fulfilled His undertakings to the nation given in the Abrahamic Covenant. The prophetic portions of Scripture confirm these and date them so that we have no excuse in terms of recognizing the hand of God in her national destiny.

For instance, the prophet Jeremiah speaks prophetically of a coming day when more Jews would return to the Land of Israel from the North Country than those who returned from Egypt under Moses, 1300 years before Christ (Jeremiah 23:7–8). This is an extraordinary prophetic oracle, as at no time up until the present day did this happen. The return from Babylon after 70 years of exile saw nothing like the number that Moses brought out of Egypt, since the numbers in this regard are clearly recorded in the pages of Scripture (Ezra 2). But in recent years, beginning with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989, more than a million Russian Jews have returned to Zion—and they are still coming. The God we serve is a God of fulfillment!

In addition, the prophet Zechariah predicted a day when Jerusalem would spill over its wall and straddle the surrounding hills of Judea (Zechariah 2:1–5). This has not happened until the twentieth century when, for the first time, homes and dwellings of all types began to spring up around the ancient walled and biblical city of Zion. In fact, the first community to be built in this regard was that of Yemin Moshe, easily recognized by the windmill that stands among its dwellings.

Amos, that remarkable “shepherd prophet” (Amos 7:14–15), wrote of Israel’s trials and tribulations in terms of judgment and exile. But he also saw a day, by the hand of God, when she would return to her ancient homeland never to be “plucked up again” (Amos 9:13–15). This is no reference to the return from Babylon, as the nation was “plucked up again” in AD 70. Rather, it is a prophetic picture of our day. God has fulfilled His promises before our very eyes. He is the friend of Abraham, and thus, a God of fulfillment.
Jesus then gave a prophetic oracle that is known as the Olivet Discourse, which is recorded in all the synoptic Gospels (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21). In this discourse He stated that the Jews would be dispersed into all the nations of the world and that Jerusalem would be “downtrodden by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled” (Luke 21:24). Here again the idea of fulfillment is brought into focus. Consequently, in 1967, by the Six Day War of June of that year, the gentile nations lost their grip on the holy city and it returned to Jewish sovereignty. This is amazing and once again, a testimony to the faithfulness of God to His covenant with Abraham.

God’s Promised Son
There is no doubt that Israel’s greatest gift to the world is Jesus of Nazareth, God’s only begotten Son. He has saved millions of people of all colors, creeds, and nations from their sins and has become the most famous person of all time. He has no competitors since He towers above all the human icons of time and divides history itself by His existence. Moreover, He is alive at the right hand of God from where He will soon return to the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:11).

Israel’s modern-day restoration constitutes a platform by which the Son of God will return to the earth in power and great glory (Matthew 24:30). The psalmist wrote that there would come a time when the Lord would “build up Zion” and then “appear in His glory” (Psalm 102:16–17). This time is upon us—yes, the time has come, or has been fulfilled, and the Son of God will shortly come as King to His people.

God’s People of Prayer
Because all these things are true, it is clear that we have responsibilities as Christians to Israel and the Jewish people since we share in “their spiritual things” (Romans 15:27). In short, we should bless what God is blessing and work where God is working. Our God is working in all the earth, but He is doing mighty and wondrous things in Israel.

Paul tells us that God has not forsaken His people (Romans 11:11) and He has not abandoned the calling that He placed over them through Abraham 4,000 years ago (Romans 11:29). He has faithfully fulfilled all His promises to them, and Israel’s seventieth anniversary brings this into focus. Consequently, according to the apostle Paul, this means that we should:

1. Resist the notion that He has abandoned them (Romans 11:11)
2. Resist anti-Semitism (Romans 11:20–22)
3. Resist pride and arrogance (Romans 11:18)

We should actually give ourselves to prayer and fasting for Israel as Daniel did when he discerned the times of fulfillment in Israel’s long historical journey (Daniel 9:1–3). The Psalmist—while speaking of a future day of the rebuilding of Zion—stated that this would happen because God has heard the prayers of His people (Psalm 102:15–17). Paul knew that his major contribution to the well-being and salvation of Israel would be that of prayer (Romans 10:1). We must not fail God now, but arise to take hold of the days of fulfillment, and this means that Jesus’ Church should be a “house of prayer.” ☩
ISRAELI FARMS DESTROYED BY TERRORISM

"It’s not easy, but we are very optimistic."

These are the words of a local Israeli farmer in the Eshkol Regional Council near the Gaza border. While the ICEJ witnessed many burnt crops and fields in this region, we also discovered the powerful, resilient hearts of the Israeli people in the midst of their latest trial.

Daniel is a local farmer who lost 180 avocado trees due to the arson kites and explosive balloons launched from the neighboring Gaza Strip. He says, "It is not easy, but we are very optimistic. We continue doing our life." Considering the fact that it takes five to six years for an avocado tree to mature and bear fruit, this attitude is admirable.

Despite daily fires continuing to hit the Gaza border areas of Israel, there are resilient Israelis planting new life with great hope and perseverance!

Join us in continuing to show God's love to the Jewish people by supporting them and standing with them at this time! Send your generous support to Israelis today, and pray for God to restore Israel’s natural beauty and bless her people!

TEXAS MINISTRY PURCHASES 11 FIREFIGHTING TRAILERS

“What a tremendous encouragement and blessing it was the day ICEJ USA Director Susan Michael contacted me to say that a church wanted to purchase 11 firefighting trailers. I could barely believe my ears!” said Rabbi Shmuel Bowman, the executive director of Operation Lifeshield. "When I told some of the local security officers of this additional boost to their equipment, there were more than a few tears of appreciation.”

Kenneth Copeland Ministries and Eagle Mountain International Church (EMIC) gave the donation out of their great love for Israel and their desire to help the Israeli people suffering under these daily arson attacks.

"When the Gaza fires broke out, we searched for a way to help,” said Pastor Terri Copeland Pearsons. “It was a match truly made in Heaven when we connected with the ICEJ. They had the plan and we had the funds already set aside for such a need as this. I love the verse we had attached to each firetrailer in both English and Hebrew: Isaiah 43:2 which declares, ‘When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned.’" At EMIC’s annual Night to Honor Israel, ICEJ USA Director Susan Michael was able to show photos of the trailers and convey the thanks of the Israeli people in southern Israel. A representative of the church, Lily Sironi (pictured above), was present at the first delivery of the trailers and received thanks at a special ceremony thanking ICEJ and EMIC for a total of 17 fire trailers purchased so far.

Help Israel with firefighting equipment. Give at: www.icejusa.org/crisis
On Tuesday, October 2, the Israeli communities along the Gaza border hosted a delegation from the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem at a special ceremony to honor us for providing vital assistance over recent months to combat the onslaught of airborne incendiary devices and renewed rocket barrages from Gaza.

It has been a long and difficult summer for the farming towns and villages in the Eshkol Region along on the Gaza border, as they have faced a relentless arson campaign from militants in Gaza releasing flaming kites and balloons to deliberately start fires during the dry season in Israel. Thousands of acres of fields and orchards have been destroyed. Hamas and other terror militias in Gaza also have renewed their rocket barrages on southern Israel as part of their “March of Return” protests over recent months.

As officials from the Eshkol Region urgently sought outside assistance to combat these challenges to their safety and livelihood, the ICEJ responded by donating 17 all-terrain firefighting trailers and seven portable steel bomb shelters, all in cooperation with Operation Lifeshield.

The Christian delegation, headed by ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler, began its tour through the Eshkol Region with the dedication of a new bomb shelter at a youth sports club in Kibbutz Magen followed by a ceremony of appreciation hosted by Mayor Gadi Yarkoni, head of the Eshkol Regional Council.
The group then visited an IDF observation post overlooking Gaza near Kissufim, where they received a security briefing from the Eshkol Region’s Chief Security Officer Elan Isaacson and took part in a demonstration of the new firefighting trailers.

“These bomb shelters and firefighting equipment are not only about protecting the safety of our people and livelihoods,” said Mayor Yarkoni. “They are also about our emotional security. We are so grateful to the ICEJ for helping us in our hour of need this summer.”

“It is a core mission of the Christian Embassy to be there for Israelis whenever you face crises and challenges,” responded Dr. Bühler. “We know our assistance helps ensure that as you send your children to school and to sports club every day, you do so with the peace of mind that they will be safe. And we so much admire the steadfastness of the residents of this region and how you have stayed strong throughout the years of rocket barrages—and now, arson attacks.”

The new all-terrain firefighting trailers can be used to reach off-road areas inaccessible to regular firetrucks and have proven to be very effective this summer at putting out blazes deep in the fields and orchards of the Eshkol Region. Kenneth Copeland Ministries and Eagle Mountain International Church donated 11 trailers, and ICEJ branches in the United States, Canada, Finland, Germany, and several other nations donated the other six.

Six of the new mobile bomb shelters were provided by ICEJ Switzerland through the generosity of the Rudolf and Helga Frei family.

Over the past 12 years, the ICEJ has donated 70 mobile bomb shelters to communities in the periphery of Gaza.

The firefighting trailers cost $15,500 each, and the bomb shelters are $25,000 each, for a total donation of $438,500 over recent months. Thank you to our donors! 😊

Please protect more Israelis with bomb shelters at: www.icejusa.org/bombshelter
The Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors is expanding to accommodate more Survivors. It is currently comprised of two main buildings and many apartments on three streets. Since the buildings and apartments are old, there is a constant need for maintenance and reconstruction to adapt to the changing needs of an aging population.

At this time, we are building an extension to the dining hall that will function as an activity room and, at the same time, a safe and protected area in case of war.

We also acquired a new building that will be turned into a kind of hospice. This will allow our residents to remain with their “family” in familiar surroundings for as long as possible. The renovation of the outside of the building has begun, before the winter rains begin to fall. Currently we are designing plans for the inside and waiting for all the right permits. Once they are received, we can begin renovating the inside, which is a process that will take another couple of months. Work is progressing fast, and we have no time to lose.

At the end of July, Yudit Setz, the ICEJ AID deputy director and coordinator for the Haifa Home, moved with her husband, Will, to Haifa. Now that she is engaged full time with the Haifa Home, she will be able to build an infrastructure for volunteer service and strengthen our wonderful partnership. Haifa Home residents and staff welcomed Yudit and Will with a festive dinner and lots of hugs, kisses, and excitement.
THE JEWISH HIGH HOLIDAYS

The Jewish High Holidays are always a very special time at the Haifa Home. Food parcels are delivered and common meeting areas are transformed.

On Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the dining hall was turned into a synagogue. The men prayed in the front and the women in the back per Jewish custom. It was a day of introspective prayer and repentance, with the hope that their names will be written in the Book of Life for this new year.

It was touching to see the elderly men and women taking this day seriously. The reasons they keep the holidays can vary. Some keep it out of respect for and in memory of their religious parents who perished in the Holocaust. Others keep the holidays because of tradition, and still others out of genuine faith in God.

But many do not keep them at all. They cannot believe God exists because they endured such suffering—not to mention family members who were murdered, as well as 6 million innocent Jewish people who died, including many children. This is evidence of why our presence in the home is so vitally important.

After the shofar made its last sound at the end of the Yom Kippur service, the Survivors wished each other a good and, above all, healthy New Year, with much warmth and love. It was heart-warming, and revealed the friendly, familial atmosphere of this loving community.

THE NATIONS VISIT THE HAIFA HOME

With the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) only a few days away, a group of ICEJ Feast team members came to visit the Haifa Home and its residents. The group, comprised of different nationalities, came to bless our dear residents. In the coming weeks, groups from many nations will visit the Home to let the residents know that they are not forgotten. They will take their stories back to their nations, families, and friends.

LET’S HELP WHILE WE STILL CAN!

Time is running out. There are many Survivors waiting to find a loving home and community. With no government funding, the Home is completely dependent on donors like you! With the growing needs of an increasingly older resident population, you can help by donating toward:

1. Staff salaries for a nurse and an assistant cook
2. An administrative assistant, among other positions
3. Renovation and restoration of the home and equipment that needs renewal

Show your love today by clicking the donate button below. Or, adopt a Holocaust Survivor by contacting info@icejusa.org.

Give to: www.icejusa.org/haifa
10-Year-Old Girl Blesses Holocaust Survivors

The US Branch office of the ICEJ received a very touching phone call recently, when a father called to tell us that his 10-year-old daughter, Abigail, wanted to make a donation to the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors. Abigail had saved up $100 that she wanted to donate to bless Survivors. Abigail and her church had saved this money by storing up regular contributions in a “Tzedaka box.” The Hebrew word “tzedaka” means “charity,” and it is customary in Jewish homes and synagogues to keep such a box to facilitate giving and to teach the importance of the practice to the children. This is a wonderful Jewish traditional that Abby adopted by placing a Tzedaka jar in her home church.

The 10-year-old had developed a love for the Jewish people at a very young age, and has already travelled to Israel twice where she fell in love with the country and the Jewish people. When she was taught about the Holocaust, pogroms, and crusades, she was devastated to learn that anything like that could happen, much less to God’s people.

She read a news article about the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors in one of the ICEJ’s magazines and decided the Tzedaka funds should go there. Her goal is to raise even more money, but with the Feasts approaching she decided to send in what they had raised thus far.

Her gift of $100 was made during the Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot), so on the note she enclosed with her donation she drew a beautiful and brightly colored succa (booth).

Your donation to bless Holocaust Survivors can be made at: www.icejusa.org/haifa

"I am so happy that there are children abroad that remember us. I survived with my wounded sister and dreamt every day of a slice of bread. Now I am already a grandmother and have three children and six grandchildren. I took good care of my children as I grew up without parents. Now I live in the Haifa Home, which reminds me of the children’s home I was in for several years. Being together with people who survived the same and can understand me makes me happy. Thank you so much dear, Abby"
FAITHFULLY SUPPORTING ISRAEL

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

PARTNER LEVELS

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

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

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

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

Builder of Zion Partner
Isaiah declared the Lord will call Zion’s walls “salvation” and her gates “praise” (60:18). As we walk together side by side, the ICEJ would be honored if you would become a Builder of Zion Partner at a giving level of $2500 a year or more. In appreciation, you will receive everything in the Ambassadorial Partnership level plus:

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

Gateway of Zion Partner
Show compassion for Zion and bless the people of Israel. The ICEJ would be honored if you were to become a Gateway of Zion partner at a giving level of $20,000 a year or more. In appreciation, you will receive everything in the Builder of Zion Partnership level plus:

- The opportunity to meet with ICEJ leadership and/or receive personal briefings on ICEJ projects that are of interest
- Special invites to exclusive events such as pastors’ lunches and VIP meetings that are held in your area or community
- An additional gift acknowledging you are a Gateway of Zion Partner

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MSC 7505
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem – USA, Inc.
PO Box 415000
Nashville, TN 37241-7505
Phone: (615) 895 3930 • Email: info@icejusa.org
Online: www.icejusa.org/partner

ICEJ
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM
Why Is Gaza Such a Problem?

By Susan Michael, ICEJ USA Director

The Gaza Strip is a small piece of land along the Mediterranean coast just north of the Sinai Peninsula. It is roughly 141 square miles and has 1.8 million Palestinian inhabitants who are ethnically Arab; a majority are Sunni Muslim. While historically Gaza was a sleepy outpost of much larger empires, it has recently become an overcrowded hotbed of Islamist ideology that is destined for disaster if the West does not step in and force changes on the Hamas government—and the United Nations agency supporting it.

Gaza's History

After the breakup of the Ottoman Empire in 1917, Gaza was part of the territory of Palestine put under British Mandate and intended to be a homeland for the Jewish people. When the British Mandate ended and the State of Israel was formed in 1948, Egypt-occupied Gaza set up an “All Palestine Government” in Gaza, headed by the notorious Nazi propagandist Haj Amin al-Husseini who formed the first jihadi militia in modern times—the Holy War Army.

The Mufti was feared and discredited by many Arab League leaders. His radical government was dissolved by Egypt in 1959 and replaced by Egyptian military rule, until 1967 when the area came under Israeli rule after the Six Day War.

After the Palestinian riots and attacks against Israel in the 1987 and 2000 Intifadas, Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon decided to unilaterally withdraw from Gaza, which he did in 2005.

A Terrorist Government

The US government insisted on parliamentary elections in Gaza despite Israeli warnings about the volatile political divide in the population. The result was a victory for Hamas, which took a majority of 56 percent of the seats. Hamas is a jihadist terrorist organization that has carried out more attacks against Israeli citizens than any other group.

They immediately refused to honor any signed agreements between Israel and the Palestinians. Civil war then broke out between Hamas and the second largest faction in the Gazan government, Fatah, which is the ruling party in the West Bank. In June 2007, Hamas took control of all of Gaza, and has been accused of war crimes and violations, such as calling for genocide, directing fire at civilians, and using civilians as human shields.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in his statement before the Turkel Commission in September 2010: “The Gaza Strip is controlled by a murderous terrorist organization, which acts tirelessly to harm the State of Israel and its residents and which, through its violent actions directed indiscriminately at citizens—men, women, and children—violates every possible rule of international law.”

Backed by Iran

Iran funds Hamas and has given them special, longer-range rockets called Fajr-5. The Iranian rockets are able to reach major Israeli cities and pose an increasing danger for Israel.

UNRWA

Fifty-five percent of Gazans are refugees living in eight refugee camps. They are run by UNRWA, which has fueled the Palestinian refugee problem by treating the Palestinians differently than other refugees. Rather than resettling them, UNRWA is holding out false hopes of returning the Palestinians to their ancestral homes. Many UNRWA employees are affiliated with Hamas, and not only hide weapons in their facilities in Gaza and teach hatred for Jews in their schools, but also use the very refugees they are supposed to be helping as political pawns in a campaign against Israel.

Ticking Time Bomb

With a jihadist government, Iranian agitation, and a co-opted UN agency, the situation in Gaza is dire. No one seems to care that there is a forty percent unemployment rate causing thirty-eight percent of Gazans to live below the poverty line.

Living conditions are worsening due to the rapidly increasing population (the area’s growth rate is one of the highest in the world) and inadequate water, sewage, and electrical services. It is no surprise that at least 70 percent of Gazans want to leave Gaza for good.

Intervention Is Needed

There are no quick solutions for the Gaza Strip. But there are two things the Western leaders need to begin tackling right away. One is to dismantle UNRWA over a five-year period and use the funds for resettling the refugees. The other is to remove Hamas from power and put a civil government in place that actually cares about the people living there and will live in peace with Israel. For the sake of the $1.8 million Gazans living this nightmare, someone needs to step in.
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