Dear friends,

One of the primary themes of the Hebrew prophets is of divine deliverance and salvation. God promises national deliverance to Israel (Joel 2:18-27), Judah (Hosea 1:6-7) and even to Egypt (Isaiah 19). But he also reveals himself as an individual deliverer as we can see in the stories of Jonah (2:9-10) or Daniel (Daniel 6).

During the reign of King Hezekiah, Jerusalem and its inhabitants were under siege by the Assyrian army. The king beseeched the living God for deliverance (Isaiah 37:16-20) and God replied that He would “defend this city and save it for My own sake”. That very night, God struck the enemy and thus delivered Jerusalem and her inhabitants from impending disaster. The entire city of Jerusalem was delivered based on the prayer of one man – Hezekiah. Ernest prayer can save nations and deliver entire cities!

It is divine deliverance which distinguishes the God of Israel, from all other gods. Our God is a God who longs to deliver! (Isaiah 45:20-22). No other god delivers like Him, period! “I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no saviour.” (Isaiah 43:11)

His glorious delivering power will be the major proof to mankind that there is a God in heaven. When the prophet Isaiah prays for the deliverance of Israel, he already can see the global reaction “that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone, Lord, are God” (Isaiah 37:20). But the delivered nation of Israel also will recognise that “the Lord is in their midst” (Joel 2:27). It is true that the greatest testimony to the world today is a delivered people of God! This is true for Israel and for the Church!

God’s deliverance is not only from impending physical harm, but the prophets point to a day when the Lord promises to deliver from sin. The prophet Joel foresees a time when God’s Spirit will be poured out on all humanity. In that day, whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be delivered (Joel 2:28-32).

Finally we have the privilege of knowing the name of our great deliverer: “For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Act 4:12) If we pray in this name, prayers are answered, doors will open and mountains need to move. His name is Jesus!

Therefore as we pray, let us remember that we serve a mighty saviour. There is no mountain or need which our God cannot overcome. As we pray, let us expect a mighty deliverance for Israel, the Church and for your family and your personal lives.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director
PRAYER POINTS FOR JULY 2012

Please note that the monthly day for prayer and fasting in our Isaiah 62 Prayer Campaign has been moved to the first Wednesday of every month, meaning the next global day of prayer and fasting will be Wednesday, 4 July 2012.

Prayers for Israel
- Pray for Israel's protection and deliverance from surrounding enemies as the threats of violence and terror spread to borders that were previously quiet. Pray that Israel would quickly complete the security fence along the Sinai border with Egypt, and that workers on the fence would be safe from harm. Pray for the end of any further rocket barrages from Hamas-controlled Gaza.
- Pray that Israel can speedily resolve the problem of thousands of African migrants illegally entering the country from Sinai. Pray for those now being repatriated to their home nations in Africa, many of whom are Christian, that they would be welcomed home safely and would find work and help their nations develop and prosper.

Prayers for the Middle East
- Pray for Syria, where over 10,000 people have died in a raging civil war, that the fighting would soon end and order would be restored under a new regime more open to democratic freedoms and friendly relations with Israel. Pray especially for the innocent women and children caught up in this violent struggle.
- Pray for Egypt, where a leader of the radical Muslim Brotherhood has emerged as the new president. Ask that he ensure freedoms and individual rights, uphold the peace treaty with Israel, and clamp down on terrorist activities in the Sinai directed at Israelis.
- Pray for Iran and the ongoing P5+1 negotiations which are trying to resolve the international standoff over Tehran’s nuclear program. Pray that the Iranian regime would agree to voluntarily surrender all its enriched uranium stockpiles, cease all its enrichment activities, and close the Fordo underground nuclear facility. Pray for the churches in Iran, that they would know God's protection and harvest a multitude of souls.

Prayers for the work of the ICEJ
- Pray for the Summer Hands-On Tour of our Arise Young Adults program, which began on June 28, that the tour would be life-impacting on its participants and a great blessing for Israel.
- Pray for our new ICEJ branches opening up around the world, as well as for new doors to open for us in other key countries, including in South Korea and Mexico.
- Pray for our preparations for the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles celebration, that the Lord would continue to fill volunteer positions to help with this year’s Feast. Also join us in asking God to send a fresh outpouring of His Holy Spirit upon our gathering in Jerusalem.