EXODUS
IN THE TIME OF MOSES AND TODAY
Dear friends,

Spring is now arriving here in the Land of Israel. The earliest sign is always the blossoming of the almond trees, followed by hillsides covered with wildflowers. And every Israeli knows this also means Passover is just around the corner. This is a time for Jewish families to enjoy meals together, all to remember God’s mighty deliverance of the Hebrew children from bondage in Egypt and their journey to the Promised Land.

Jews have been keeping this ancient tradition for some 3,500 years, but for many centuries the joy of celebrating the Passover was mixed with sadness. For nearly 2,000 years, the Jewish people lived in exile again. Passover observances always ended with the prayer of yearning for “Next Year in Jerusalem!”

Today, however, Jews in Israel have so much to rejoice in at Passover, since the long dream of returning to the land of their forefathers has come true. Jeremiah 16:14-15 speaks of this modern-day return as something that would even rival the Exodus from Egypt, when the Lord would bring them back “from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.”

In this magazine, we bring you the latest on the modern miracle of Aliyah, as Jews continue to return from India, Russia, China, France, Ethiopia, Ukraine and many other nations. The International Christian Embassy has been involved in this great ingathering for decades, assisting Jews in their journey and then helping them get settled in the land. No doubt, we have changed the lives of tens of thousands of Jewish families for the better! There is also a biblical teaching by my colleague Juha Ketola on Passover and its prophetic connection to the modern-day Aliyah.

This issue of Word From Jerusalem will arrive in homes in time for you to respond this Passover to the needs we are presenting here. Whether it is helping poor families in Israel to mark the Passover meal with dignity or assisting Jewish families in their journey home to Israel – now is the time to be involved!

Together, we can offer a strong expression of Christian love for the Jewish people this Passover – thanks to the great mercy shown to us all on that fateful Passover Eve two thousand years ago.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

COVER PHOTO: An artistic depiction of the parting of the Red Sea

FOR MAGAZINE ARCHIVES visit www.icej.org/media/word-jerusalem
CONTENTS

4 EXODUS IN THE TIME OF MOSES AND TODAY

9 ENVISION PASTORS CONFERENCE

11 HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

19 CELEBRATING PASSOVER

21 A DAY TO HONOUR ISRAEL IN NIGERIA
WHEN THE LORD GOD OF ISRAEL BROUGHT HIS PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT, A WHOLE NATION WAS TAKEN OUT FROM UNDER THE RULE AND CONTROL OF THAT ERA’S SUPERPOWER.

BY JUHA KETOLA, ICEJ INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

EXODUS IN THE TIME OF MOSES AND TODAY
The great exodus (from Greek “going out”) shook Egypt to its core – from Pharaoh down to his people. There was no one who could stand in the way of the exodus; no military power nor political leader, no wise negotiator nor skilful sorcerer could stop it! The idols of Egypt came tumbling down, the power of men and evil spirits was broken and brought to naught by the Lord, and His people walked free from their oppression, bondage and slavery.

They were now on the threshold of a long journey which the Lord would use to form this unorganized group of former slaves into a well-functioning nation under the Lord’s wisdom and dominion as an expression of His Kingdom and rule on earth. And today, after so many thousands of years, enlightened with the knowledge of history of mankind before and since, we can see how these events and what followed has changed everything – for good! Israel has become a blessing to all the families of the earth!

REVELATION AT SINAI

After Israel left Egypt they received divine revelation from the Creator Himself. They received wisdom and understanding beyond anything they had known. Under the leadership of Moses the people of Israel first received a greater understanding of who God truly was as their Creator, and who they were as human beings. He then revealed to them the true value of each individual, the beginnings and purpose of the whole creation, and finally, blessed them with the Ten Commandments.

Prior to this encounter mankind had worshipped the sun, moon and stars, as well as animals and all sorts of vain imaginations and idols. They also had not understood that every man, woman and child were created in the image of God, and as such had an incomprehensible value.

Nations were in hopeless darkness and lacked the wisdom to discern what was good and beneficial, and what was breeding destruction, chaos and confusion. Thanks to the journey of Israel however, we were edified in order to see and understand.

Mankind was given directives how to prevent needless suffering, distress and sorrow. As a result of the exodus from Egypt, Israel was the very first nation out of many to receive this wisdom and knowledge in order to pass it on to the rest of humanity (Exodus 19:6, Deut. 4:6, John 4:22, Rom. 9:1-5). Israel was and is God’s instrument in His divine, eternal plan.

PASSED OVER

As the Feast of Passover approaches, we remember both the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt as well as the lessons they carried. The Lord introduced the people to the concept of righteousness, sin and forgiveness which is what the Feast of Passover commemorates. The blood sacrifice, which covers for the lawless deeds of trespassing the Lord’s commandments, was powerfully introduced to God’s people that very night, when they were about to leave Egypt. The Lord instituted Passover, with its message of forgiveness, as a way out of oppression for His people. Today we know that Lord Jesus Christ Himself is the ultimate fulfilment of all animal sacrifices – He is the propitiation for our sins.

Right before the first, historical exodus, each Hebrew family was to take a lamb without blemish and kill it at twilight (Exodus 12). The innocent lamb’s blood was then put on the two doorposts and across the lintel of each house, because the Lord had promised: “When I see the blood, I will pass over you.” (Exodus 12:13)

SACRIFICIAL LAMB

Every family living in the land of Egypt – both among the Egyptians and the Israelites alike – faced death which would enter into each household to take their firstborn son. The judgment of God was about to fall on the land because of the idol worship. The Book of Ezekiel explains that since the Israelites in Egypt had also fallen into the same snare and temptation of idol worship, their families were also under the curse of death (Ezekiel 20:7-10). But God provided a way of escape for His people and all the Israelite families were spared.

The penalty of death and the judgment of God could be transferred over from their families to an innocent lamb, which was slaughtered on their behalf. Their sins could be avenged only with a sacrifice. But it wouldn’t be a member of their own family; not the firstborn, nor the father or mother, but a male lamb. The sins of each Israelite – as well as the condemning punishment of death – were transferred over to the lamb and, in exchange, the innocence of the lamb and its will to live were transferred to the family. The lamb had to die so the whole family, including the firstborn, could live!
THE POWER OF THE BLOOD
Later that night, as the angel of death passed through the land destroying life among the Egyptian families, wherever he saw the lamb's blood on the lintel and doorposts of the Hebrew homes, he passed over. A sacrifice had already been made so the destroyer would not strike a second time – the families inside were perfectly shielded!

In the centuries which followed, the blood of innocent animals was regularly spilled on the altar in accordance with God's instructions given at Sinai. The Lord had said: “I have given [the blood of the sacrifices] to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.” (Leviticus 17:11) When God saw the blood, it was the sign indicating His righteous requirements had been met, justice had been performed and the price for iniquities had been paid. God was now free and just when placing His blessings and protection upon His righteous ones!

ULTIMATE SACRIFICE
In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul clarifies this principle and emphasizes: “Indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” (1 Cor. 5:7) The punishment for our sins was transferred onto Jesus on the cross, and in exchange, His life and righteousness was transferred over to us through His resurrection. When we believe His life is in us, the life we live is His and we will never die! (Galatians 2:20, John 11:26)

This definitive sacrifice of Jesus is more than a blood covering for our sins however. His death and resurrection has taken our sins away, and our consciousness of sin has been replaced with consciousness of righteousness (John 1:29, Psalm 40:6-8, Hebrews 10:1-22). Jesus’ ultimate and final sacrifice is the fulfilment of all the sacrifices in the Law of Moses. His sacrifice happened once and for all, and is accessible to all the families of the earth! (Gen. 12:3, Gal. 3:8)
THE JEWISH PEOPLE

Today, after centuries of exile, the restored nation of Israel is once again flourishing, despite unfavourable conditions in the Middle East. However the mission of exodus as it were in the time of Moses continues today. The Jewish people are still returning to the land of their promise. Just as the great exodus from Egypt millennia ago was a sight to behold, the modern day exodus from dozens of different countries in the world has shaken the nations. Especially the Muslim nations!

Again we ask: “Has any great thing like this happened before or has anything like it been heard?” What nation or language group in the history of humanity, despite being away from their homeland for two thousand years has returned to the same location, speaking the same language, and worshipping the same God as when they left? Believers and agnostics alike must agree there is one example, and one alone: the Jews. This has been true only of the Jews, God’s chosen and beloved people.

NEW EXODUS

As in the time of Moses, again no military power nor political leader, no wise negotiator nor skilful sorcerer will be able to stop the return of the Jews to their land. No one can prevent them from exodus – coming out from all the nations and entering their Promised Land! The God of Israel has cut a covenant with His people and He will remain faithful to His promises to bring them back. He commands us to declare it: “Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock’. (Jer. 31:10)

The Word of God foretells how this new exodus from four corners of the earth will once more change the landscape of humanity. The regathering of the Jewish people will eventually turn into their salvation and usher in righteousness and peace to all nations (Ezek. 36:24-28, Rom. 11:26-27, Isa. 2:1-4). Not only will the Kingdom of Heaven be expressed in an unprecedented way on Earth, but the King Himself will return and be welcomed by His sons and daughters (Matt. 23:39, Acts 1:11, Prov. 8:30-31). Through His dealings with Israel, God the Creator and our Redeemer shall truly bless all the families of the earth!

ASCEND TO THE LAND

By faith in God’s Word, we at the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem have been aligning ourselves to God’s plans for decades. We know enough to be sure of this: God is faithful to His covenants. We have been helping the Jewish people return to Israel, and together with your faithful giving have already helped approximately 120,000 olim hadashim (new immigrants) to make Aliyah (return, or literally: ascend) to the Promised Land.

We have also celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles here in Jerusalem since 1980, together with our Jewish friends and all the families of the earth. Thus we are publicly aligning ourselves with His Word and confessing that we believe the modern day Israel has been gathered by the God of Israel Himself! It is a fulfilment of His covenantal promises, and He remains faithful in His loyal love towards His own people. We understand enough of this plan!

So come join your hands with ours powerfully again, and let us continue in bringing the Jewish people back home! As we do this, plan on bringing your whole family to Jerusalem, to celebrate this year’s Feast of Tabernacles under the theme “All the Families of the Earth”. Mark it down in your calendar: 16-21 October 2016. Trust the Lord that He will do it – He will bring all the families to Jerusalem.

Remember, your family is safe, protected and blessed through the blood of the Lamb of God, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!
HOW OFTEN DO YOU GET A CHANCE TO FULFILL BIBLICAL PROPHECY?

BY NICHOLAUS MILLS

“I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.” (Is. 62:6)

Isaiah 62 is a movement of watchmen designed to raise global prayer warriors to petition before the Lord on behalf of Israel. By joining our community of Jerusalem watchmen you are fulfilling this prophecy spoken almost three millennia ago by Isaiah!

Every month, the ICEJ sends out a prayer update with guidelines to help you focus your prayers on urgent matters. With prayer partners like you and your church or home group, Israel is brought before the Lord’s throne by thousands of intercessors in over 80 nations!

7 REASONS WHY THIS MOVEMENT IS SO IMPORTANT:

1. Prayer is a powerful tool emphasized in the Word of God on numerous occasions and the Bible specifically instructs us to pray for Jerusalem, the apple of God’s eye.

2. Joining this movement – which is a direct fulfillment of God’s command – will change lives, including yours.

3. The outstanding prophecy of Isaiah 62 and Jerusalem’s restoration is yet to be fulfilled. As Christians, it is an honor and an obligation to pursue the fulfillment of this prophecy.

4. The body of Christ is a community. Don’t stand alone in this battle; join other believers in the world in covering Israel with your prayers.

5. Israel has been surrounded by enemies throughout her existence. She is constantly under attack, both physical and spiritual. Prayer with faith is the strongest shield, and the Word of God is our weapon!

6. The Isaiah 62 guidelines inform you of specific needs in the region, and give you realistic insight into Israel’s circumstances.

7. Salvation was brought to us through the Jews. We can show our gratitude by standing with the Jewish people in prayer. God promises to bless those who bless the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

YOU CAN JOIN THE ISAIAH 62 PRAYER MOVEMENT IN 5 EASY STEPS:

1. Go to our website, www.icej.org/isaiah62. Click on “Pledge to Pray.”

2. Fill out the form with your information and press “save.”

3. Share Isaiah 62 with your friends and family or church group so you can pray together. Click on “Tell a friend” and send them an email directly from the website.

4. You will receive a prayer letter at the start of each month, which will equip you to know how to pray.

5. Sometime on the first Wednesday, fast with us, host a prayer group at your house or simply pray at a convenient time for you.

Join the Isaiah 62 movement if you haven’t done so already! Sign up at: www.icej.org/isaiah62
Over 140 church leaders from around the world convened in the city of Jerusalem to attend the ICEJ’s third annual Envision Pastors and Leaders Conference late in January. Delegates represented 18 different nations, and included our group of 13 pastors whom we were blessed to bring from the UK and Ireland. None returned home unchanged.

The conference was held at the excellent 4-star Hotel Yehuda whose staff looked after us all admirably. The week was characterised by a great sense of fellowship between the various delegates, and many relationships were formed which will last a lifetime and produce much fruit for the Kingdom.

We experienced times of refreshing worship and excellent
teaching from a variety of perspectives. A central theme throughout the conference was the ‘one new man’ in Christ, and both the reality and necessity of this in Israel was powerfully presented through three panel discussion sessions made up of both Jewish and Arab local pastors.

Underpinning the entire conference was the solid Biblical foundation laid by the world-class teaching of Pastor Peter Tsukahira of Mount Carmel Assembly, Haifa. A consistent refrain among our group was how impacted they were by his messages on Romans 11; the importance of calling, Israel and the Kingdom, and the power of law and grace when properly understood together.

Delegates also heard about the economic and political successes and challenges facing Israel, with thought-provoking perspectives on Israeli industry from Eli Fischer of Dr. Fischer, and through the political eyes of ICEJ Media Director (on sabbatical), David Parsons, and Jerusalem Post’s Gil Hoffman.

In addition to the in-house sessions, delegates travelled to several local sites to experience various aspects of the land. All were moved by the visit to Israel's national Holocaust museum, Yad Vashem on the eve of international Holocaust Remembrance Day, during which ICEJ representatives had the honour of laying a memorial wreath and rekindling the ‘Eternal Flame’ in the sober surroundings of the Hall of Remembrance.

Delegates also received a taste of Biblical history with a fascinating tour of the ancient City of David, and experienced the growing sense of unity and appreciation between leaders of Christian and Jewish groups through an informative visit to the Knesset. The conference finale was a dinner at the luxury Waldorf Astoria hosted by the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus and the World Jewish Congress.

As one of our leaders remarked, “How do you unpack this week?” Another declared that, “I’ve just been blown away by this trip!” All were powerfully impacted, but none more than the denominational leader who, after confiding at the start of the week to not being sure why he was there, remarked at week’s end: “We need to pray and fast, and encourage people to be involved. I’m going away encouraged to do more. We need more and more pastors to come out here and catch the vision.”
On the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the President of Israel Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu showed tremendous honor to the Holocaust Survivors by inviting the residents of the ICEJ-sponsored Haifa Home to private meetings, where the elderly survivors were able to share their stories and pay tribute to their loved ones who didn’t survive those dark days of human cruelty and indifference.

Prime Minister Netanyahu said he wanted to hear the stories of the survivors, because they point to Israel’s rebirth. On the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day he met with a group of 20 survivors from the Haifa Home, along with the Director of the Home, Shimon Sabag and ICEJ’s Nicole Yoder.

“The Holocaust took place because there was no state of Israel,” said Netanyahu to the survivors. “It’s terrible that seventy years after the Holocaust there are still enemies trying to destroy us. The difference is however that today we have a country and a government, we have an army with one mission: To prevent another Holocaust.”

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed on 27 January, commemorating the date when the largest Nazi concentration and death camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, was liberated in 1945. Motke, one of the Holocaust survivors from Haifa, explained why we need to remember this day: “The younger generation has to guard [this day] so that there will never be a holocaust ever again – not just for the Jews, but for any people anywhere in the whole world.”

The survivors were also welcomed in Jerusalem by President Reuven Rivlin. It was an historic moment for many of them. “In 61 years of living in Israel, I’ve never been in the President’s house,” said Rita, one of the survivors.

“My loved ones, every single one of you has his own story, a story of massacre,” said the President in his heartfelt address to the survivors. “The journey of remembrance of the painful memories is the message that you carry from then and until today... I wish you many happy and healthy years, and that in them we will have the privilege to say time after time these words...’Our Praise to You, Eternal God, for giving us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this season.’”

Juha Ketola, ICEJ’s International Director, and Nicole Yoder, ICEJ Aid Director, represented Christian supporters of Israel and the survivors at the meetings with the heads of state. Shimon Sabag, Director of the Haifa Home, praised the exceptional relationship the ICEJ has established in Israel between Jews and Christians.

“This is a wonderful thing that God has done between us,” said Sabag. “You are an integral part [of the Haifa Home] - financially, with help, with love, by sending volunteers... You understand that these are the last years that we are able to help these holocaust survivors.”
ICEJ SHOMER PENDANT
Shomer is the Hebrew word for watchman. The artistically designed replica of the Zion Mule Corps’ insignia includes an engraving on the back with the scripture from Isaiah 62:6 in Hebrew and the initials of the ICEJ. Gold plated.

30 USD + SHIPPING

HEBREW/ENGLISH BIBLE
The Hebrew in the Old Testament is taken from Masoretic text and the New Testament is from the Modern Hebrew text. The English is New American Standard Bible. The two languages are side by side through Genesis to Revelation. Leather binding.

79 USD + SHIPPING

UP TO ZION CALENDAR
The 16 month English-Hebrew Calendar (September 2015 - December 2016) contains: all major Biblical and Israeli holidays marked and explained in a special reference chart, references for all weekly scripture portions (Torah and Haftarah) with suggested New Testament readings, beginning and ending times for Sabbath, and more. Produced and printed in Israel!

15 USD
12 USD + SHIPPING

JERUSALEM COMPASS
The Jerusalem compass was developed in Jerusalem and is patented in the US. Instead of pointing north, it points only in the direction of Jerusalem from any point on the globe. Fashioned from pure solid brass, the lid is deeply embossed in the center with a Jewish Star of David and the words “Jerusalem” in Hebrew and English. The outer edges are encircled with a delicate floral design of Pomegranates found on many ancient carvings in Jerusalem around the first temple period.

39 USD + SHIPPING

GOD’S TSUNAMI BY PETER TSUKAHIRA
The devastation caused by the recent Asian tsunamis occurred while this book was being prepared for its second printing. No one was able to predict this massive natural disaster and the terrible suffering it caused. However, many of the events that are today’s “breaking news” were foretold by the prophets of Israel thousands of years ago. God’s Tsunami is about biblical prophecy and how its fulfillment is joining the destinies of Israel and the nations of the world. The shockwaves from this convergence are generating a spiritual tidal wave of change affecting all the earth. For thus says the LORD of hosts: “Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory,” says the LORD of hosts. Haggai 2:6-7

18 USD + SHIPPING
ENVISION
CONFERENCE 2016

AUDIO DOWNLOAD
Full Set 29.00 USD

Complete seminar set from the Pastors and Leaders Conference in Jerusalem ENVISION 2016, focused on the topics of Israel, salvation and the Church as one body. The speakers included ICEJ International Director Rev. Juha Ketola, Peter Tsukahira, Michael Hines, Oded Shoshani and more.

OPENING NIGHT SEMINAR DVD
Jürgen Bühler

ICEJ Executive Director’s Opening night at the 2015 Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem. Teaching on reformation, Dr Jürgen Bühler said, “Sometimes Reformation leads to the discovery of old truths and doctrines which were all the while in the scripture but were never part of our spiritual tradition.”

12 USD + SHIPPING

2014 FEAST HIGHLIGHTS
RESTORATION DVD

Inspired by the words of Zechariah, over 4,000 Christian pilgrims from more than 70 nations came up to Jerusalem for the 35th consecutive annual Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles presented by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. This two DVD set offers an exclusive taste of the 2014 Feast of Tabernacles.

20 USD + SHIPPING

VISIT OUR NEW ONLINE STORE AND RECEIVE A10% DISCOUNT ON ALL PURCHASES!
Go to: ICEJSTORE.COM and use the discount code: WFJ2016ICEJ. The special 10% discount for your purchases at the Embassy Resources is valid throughout the year 2016.
With ongoing fighting in the east and a severe nationwide economic recession, the large Jewish population in Ukraine is particularly vulnerable to this rising instability. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem continues to seek new ways to support the Jewish people in that region and help them come back to Israel.

The Jewish Agency for Israel continues to rely on the ICEJ for vital assistance in rescuing Ukrainian Jews, with our current project divided into three main parts, according to Aliyah Director Howard Flower. Our direct support has helped almost 1,000 Olim make Aliyah since the crisis broke out, at about $750 per person, and our ICEJ laborers on the ground faithfully bring families to Kiev so they may then fly on to Israel.

One family that made Aliyah with the help of the ICEJ was Lily and Sergei Krivoruchko from Kremenchug, in Ukraine's Poltava region.

“We have always accepted that Israel – our small homeland – is the Promised Land for all Jewish people, and we knew that sooner or later we would be there,” they told us. In 2014 the “economic and political situation in Ukraine changed catastrophically,” Sergei added. “The quality of life has dropped significantly and we realized something needs to change.”

Thanks to donations made to ICEJ, the Krivoruchko family received urgently needed transportation assistance. Without ICEJ’s help, they would been forced to either remain in Ukraine or leave behind nearly everything they owned. This family is very grateful for the support they received from ICEJ’s Christian donors.

“In our world, there are very few good and helpful people,” said Sergei with gratitude for the outpouring of generosity and compassion which they thought was so rare in today’s world.

Many more Jews in Ukraine await our help. By making a generous donation to the Aliyah work of ICEJ you can bring those families home to Israel. Donate today: www.icej.org/ukraine
ICEJ ALIYAH

NEW WAVE: ETHIOPIA

Most of the Ethiopian Jews came to Israel in several waves, assisted by the Israeli government. The ICEJ has supported the Ethiopian absorption in Israel since 1992, but many Jews in Ethiopia are still waiting for their journey home. Last November the decision was made to bring them home. Our help is needed to gradually and steadily help them move to Israel and adapt to the new cultural environment.

Please help us bring the Jews of Ethiopia back to Israel. You can donate at www.icej.org/ethiopia

SUPPORT THE EXTENSIVE ALIYAH WORK OF ICEJ!

BY HOWARD FLOWER

The ICEJ is active in helping Jews make Aliyah from all over the globe and we are motivated to partner with the Lord in this amazing work.

INDIA

In northeastern India, 712 members of the group known as the Bnei Menashe have been approved for Aliyah and will soon begin to arrive in Israel. The Bnei Menashe believe they are the descendants of the tribe of Manasseh. Overall, there are still about 7,000 Jews remaining in that community which suffered a 6.7 magnitude earthquake in January, which damaged or destroyed many homes. These precious people are more than ready to come to Israel to start their new lives.

RUSSIA

The drop in Russian currency, inflation and a weakened economy now in recession is influencing many Jews to move to Israel. Many Jewish parents feel there is no future for their children in Russia, and Aliyah has more than doubled in the past few years. ICEJ has been working in Russia since before the fall of the Berlin Wall and helps more that 1,000 Jews a year from its oldest Aliyah base in St. Petersburg.

CHINA

Another group of Jews from the ancient Chinese capital of Kaifeng will soon arrive in Israel. Although this community is quite small, the interest in them and their Aliyah is remarkable among the Chinese people. Ezekiel prophesied long ago that the return of the Jews to their land would be a witness to the unsaved (Ezek. 36:23-25) and this is what is happening in China. As northern China experiences a major spiritual revival, the Holy Spirit is also opening their eyes to God’s plan for Israel and the Jewish People.

FRANCE

Aliyah numbers from France and other Western European countries continue to increase, fueled predominantly by high levels of anti-Semitism and a weak economy. The government of Israel has expanded its efforts to improve the quality of absorption for the European Jews to successfully integrate into Israeli society. The ICEJ has been very active in helping low-income Jewish families, who are living in dangerous neighborhoods, such as the suburbs of Paris.

You can join us in being a part of the fulfillment of prophecy and help finance more flights! Visit www.icej.org/aliyah
A Jewish couple from Ukraine, Anton and Dafna (names changed) are both doctors. Well-educated and respected in their profession, they struggled with the decision to move to Israel. Although Israel has a superb reputation in the medical field, they were concerned about fitting in.

NEW DOCTOR IN TOWN
The Physicians Program works to ease the absorption of new immigrant doctors; it was this program that convinced Anton and Dafna to take the step of faith and make Aliyah. Upon arrival in Israel, new immigrant physicians and their families take up residence at an absorption center, where they study Hebrew, receive help preparing for the medical relicensing exam in Israel and are then assisted in finding employment.

“The first five months were spent at an intensive ulpan (language school), and then we participated in a course teaching us the necessary [medical] terminology in Hebrew, giving us a very important base to start practicing medicine in Israel.”
Dafna explained. “Being in the absorption center with the help of the incredible staff made our integration to Israel simple and enabled me to spend my time studying for the upcoming exam, with almost no worries.”

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN ISRAEL
The deficit in the medical field in Israel is a growing concern. Due to a convergence of factors, such as population increase, the retirement of immigrant physicians, and the current trend of trained professionals abandoning the field of medicine, Israel is anticipating a shortage of trained medical practitioners in the near future.

Doctors require a great deal of encouragement when it comes to the prospect of building their life anew in Israel, as the move constitutes a more considerable challenge than it does for the average newcomer. In addition to overcoming the initial hurdles of language acquisition and cultural adaptation, the Ministry of Health and the Israel Medical Association require that new immigrant physicians pass a relicensing exam before they begin practicing medicine in the country.

Immigration of Jewish physicians to Israel is a real win-win situation. While Israeli universities produce some 120 doctors annually, some 300 of doctors from abroad make Aliyah each year. The periphery needs doctors and participants are anxious to practice in Israel, with most of them interested in living in the periphery. The Physician Project provides new immigrant doctors with the opportunity they need for achievement, while allowing Israel to welcome the invaluable resource presented by newly licensed medical practitioners.

THE PHYSICIANS PROGRAM
The program helps level the playing field for new immigrant doctors by providing them with the tools necessary for a successful absorption and subsequent career in Israel. The fact that an alarming 37% of test takers fail their initial attempt is highly disconcerting. The added burdens of financial obligations and general absorption responsibilities during the course of study only fuel the fire of pressure and anxiety.

Through in-depth Hebrew language study, a specialized course for learning field-related terminology in Hebrew, and a unique course to prepare newcomers for the Israeli medical relicensing exam, this project provides an effective solution for physicians who want to move their lives and careers to the Jewish homeland. Upon completion of this course, the number of physicians passing the test is over 90%.

NEW SUCCESS RATE
“The program gave my family support in many different ways. The group support of the participants, the continual help and support of the staff, the professional studies preparing for the exam, and the living conditions have made this an incredibly positive experience,” Dafna said with excitement. “Without the Physicians Program I am not sure I would have had the courage to come [to Israel] and am sure that I would not be in the position I am today – safe, secure and happy in my new homeland.”

In the past year this Physicians Program had 130 Olim (new immigrant) doctors who went through the courses, and 97% of them passed the medical exam on first attempt. All of them then joined the workforce in Israel, having immediately found employment in areas of their choice. Our goal at ICEJ is to sponsor more physicians coming to Israel, to produce a high rate of success among beneficiaries taking medical relicensing exams in Israel. A blessing to them, it will also turn into a blessing for the whole nation, as they close the growing deficit of doctors in the country.

Join the ICEJ and sponsor the absorption of new immigrants in Israel. You can donate at: www.icej.org/absorption
“It’s very touching,” exclaimed a single mother from Ashdod, as she received assistance at Passover from the International Christian Embassy. “To hear that there are Christians in other countries who think about us, and who want to help us - it’s so special!”
HELP FAMILIES IN ISRAEL CELEBRATE PASSOVER

Poverty rates in Israel remain one of the highest in the developed world, and the income disparity among households is also among the highest in the Western world. Over 20% of Israeli society is living under the poverty line; in the Arab sector almost half of the population lives in poverty, and in the Haredi Orthodox community the numbers reach over 70%.

Expenses exceed income in the average Israeli household, partly due to a sharp rise in housing costs. Also, in the past decade food prices have risen as much as 50% for dairy products and 45% for breads, grains and baked goods.

HELPING THE POOR
Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics showed a disproportionate number of citizens living outside the workforce, stating that some 1,000,000 Israelis were either chronically unemployed or employed in the lowest paying jobs, which contributed to their poverty.

The ICEJ has partnered with the government and the Joint in an initiative to create employment services to resolve the unique barriers to the workforce and ease poverty within the following groups: Arab Israelis (primary focus), Immigrants (particularly from Ethiopia and Caucus Mountains), Israelis with disabilities, Haredim (religious Jews), and young adults from disadvantaged backgrounds.

HOLIDAY DISTRIBUTION
Every year as Passover approaches, we turn our attention to families in Israel who cannot make ends meet. Whether it is poor families with many children, new immigrants, single-parent homes or the elderly, we want to be there to help them celebrate these important holidays with joy and dignity.

During the holidays, families sit together at the table to enjoy a festive meal. However, not every family has the means to actually set their table with the traditional dishes. Thousands of families rely on donated food in order to celebrate the holidays. Passover is especially meaningful to Israelis; but more importantly, God gave specific instructions on how to celebrate the Passover Seder meal, which includes specific foods or types of food Jewish families are required to have in order to adequately observe the holiday.

The ICEJ works together with local social workers and spiritual leaders in the community to assure that we are reaching out to those who need our assistance the most. In the weeks leading up to Passover, we focus on providing food baskets and food coupons to families that cannot afford to prepare the Seder meal by their own means.

“Thank you from the bottom of our heart for standing with us for so many years,” Refael Ben Shitreet, the mayor of the city of Beit Shean, thanked the ICEJ and Christian supporters of Israel at the time of Passover last year. “We value your donations which enable the families to celebrate the festival in an honorable manner.”

We believe the holidays should be a time of plenty for all, but many suffer from serious lack. We want to make sure that again this year, as many families as possible can celebrate Passover with joy and gratefulness to God!

Partner with the ICEJ and help Jewish families celebrate Passover this year as commanded in the Bible! Donate at: www.icej.org/passover
ICEJ CANADA LEAVES ITS MARK
BY LILY KIM

ICEJ Canada has been a blessing to Jews and Israelis from ‘the great white North’ for many years. Since 2006, ICEJ’s historic and unique partnership with Yad Vashem in Jerusalem has resulted in significant gains in Holocaust education and awareness in Canada. Dr. Susanna Kokkonen, Director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, arrived in Canada recently for a speaking tour on Holocaust Education Week (HEW), while the ICEJ-Canada team identified church partners from Halifax to Vancouver to host Holocaust Survivor speakers.

Monthly “Intercession for Israel” meetings remain a big part of ICEJ Canada’s work all year round. These meetings draw attention to all forms of anti-Semitism and threats to the State of Israel, coupled with fundraising efforts for worthy causes. At the same time, Christian-Jewish joint action in Ontario included participation in UJA’s Walk for Israel, the annual Israel Rejoicing Celebration in a Toronto Jewish Park and in rallies against terrorism in Israel while supporting victims of terror.

Through vibrant praying communities and faithful volunteer reps, ICEJ Canada has grown across vast provincial landscapes. The faithful vision and communication, spread through education, media and sharing, have left an indelible mark in Canada, in Israel, and in Christian-Jewish relations. The Jewish community, Holocaust survivors, church leaders, and intercessors work together to bridge a very large chasm and have shaped enduring friendships.

ICEJ IRELAND HOSTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ICEJ-Ireland hosted two hundred attendees at their annual conference at the Ballymascanlon Hotel in Dundalk. The theme was “Modern Israel – A Sign of Hope to the Nations” featuring special guest speakers ICEJ International Director Rev. Juha Ketola and the Vicar of Baghdad, Canon Andrew White. Rev. Ketola highlighted how the Lord’s dealing with modern Israel today is a message of hope and encouragement to build up faith in the Body of Christ. Canon White posed a serious challenge to Christians regarding the persecuted church in the Middle East today, expressing a need to respond to their cry.

The ICEJ-Ireland Director Brian Silvester (pictured) welcomed the Israel Ambassador to Ireland, His Excellency Mr. Zeev Boker to the conference. The Ambassador brought greetings on behalf of the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and spoke about the positive contribution that Israel was making to the business world despite ongoing security threats in the Middle East. A gift of appreciation was presented to the Ambassador by Paul Coulter, Deputy Director of ICEJ-Ireland.

After the Conference Rev. Ketola also ministered at Karmel City Church in Belfast. The powerful move of the Holy Spirit at the end of the service inspired Pastor Glen Dunlop to re-affirm the commitment of the church to Israel. At the People’s Church in Newtownabbey, led by Pastor George McKinn, Rev. Ketola shared his testimony, how through surrendering his life to the Lord Jesus he was led into revelation of the Biblical significance of Israel and the Jewish people.
ICEJ WORLDWIDE

21    WORD FROM JERUSALEM

The ICEJ-Nigeria Director Rev. Madugba welcomed Israel’s Ambassador Uri Palti at the annual Global Prayerquake.

ICEJ Arise Director Jani Salokangas was a main speaker at this winter’s Young Adults Conference Loppiaistapaus in Finland. The conference theme was “Brave” and indeed the organizers agreed it described everyone who attended the event, as the outside the temperatures dropped to -30°C (-22°F) on those days.

More than 400 brave young adults from all over Finland came to the conference to learn, worship and connect with other believers. Many attendees were deeply moved by the Spirit of God during the event, and left feeling renewed by the power of Christ.

Salokangas inspired the young generation to walk closely with the Lord, and introduced them to the topic of God’s plans for Israel. The work of the ICEJ through the Arise young adults ministry is making a huge impact in Finland.

During the annual Global Prayerquake in Nigeria, one day was set aside to honour the nation of Israel. On Thursday, 14 January 2016, the Ambassador of Israel attended the conference to give a keynote speech, which was a first in the history of the Global Prayerquake.

Israel’s Ambassador Uri Palti said he was moved to tears when he walked into the conference hall which was filled with over 4,000 Christians from different nations of the world, all loving and honouring Israel. Ambassador Palti expressed his gratitude and thanked the Nigerian Christians for standing with Israel, especially through the difficult times experienced by both Israel and Nigeria. He further urged the Nigerians to stand together against violence in order to bring lasting solutions to their current challenges.

The ICEJ-Nigeria Director Rev. Dr. Mosy Madugba had an opportunity to pray for the Ambassador at the event. Rev. Madugba is also the International Head Coordinator of Ministers Prayer Network, together with Pastor Jeff McGee, the Ministers Prayer Network Coordinator for Houston-Texas, USA.

During the event, Ambassador Palti and Rev. Madugba laid a cornerstone in the ground for the foundations of the Gilgal Medical Centre Complex at MPN International Convention Centre (ICC). When built and completed, the Medical Centre will provide free medical care to those who cannot afford it.
21 - 31 JULY 2016

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feast.icej.org

Come celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and make the most of your time in Jerusalem!

Planning for Feast of Tabernacles 2016 is underway and we want All the Families of the Earth to attend! If you will be traveling to Israel independently, not on an organized tour, but don’t want to worry about lodging, meals or transportation during the conference, this offer is for you.

The Land Package includes:
- Conference registration
- Hotel accommodations in either 3 or 4 star hotels in Jerusalem;
- Half board – breakfast and dinner
- Transportation to Feast events – includes round trip to outdoor program at Ein Gedi (Sunday, 16 October), Communion Service at Garden Tomb (Monday, 17 October), daily sessions at the Pais Arena, Jerusalem March (Thursday, 20 October) and closing prayer meeting (Friday, 21 October).

(The offer does not include: air transportation to and from Israel; transportation from Ben-Gurion Airport to hotel or return; tips; other meals not listed and other incidental expenses.)

Rates per person in USD:
- 3 Star Hotel Double Occupancy $1295.00
- 3 Star Hotel Single Occupancy $1795.00
- 4 Star Hotel Double Occupancy $1395.00
- 4 Star Hotel Single Occupancy $1955.00

ARRIVE in Jerusalem on Saturday, 15 October 2016 (evening check-in);
DEPART on Saturday, 22 October 2016 (morning check-out).

For double occupancy, please provide the names of the people who will share the room. The ICEJ reserves the right to make room assignments. Additional nights prior to 15 October or after 22 October are available for an additional fee. Optional post-Feast Galilee tour will also be available for an additional cost.

CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS!
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