This second phase of the restoration of Israel is repeatedly spoken of by most of the Hebrew prophets. A look at some of these passages reveals an exciting divine program which unfolds as the Spirit of God starts moving upon Israel. This program of the Holy Spirit affects each individual member of God’s people. It affects the entire nation of Israel, its immediate neighbourhood and eventually the entire world.

Personal Transformation

It is again the prophet Ezekiel who describes best the personal impact which the spiritual restoration will have on Israel (Ezekiel 36: 24-27). God promises the cleansing of all past sins, to remove the hearts of stone and replace them with hearts of flesh. Then God promises to fill them with His very presence, with the Spirit of God. A nation which throughout their history struggled to meet the righteous requirements of God will now become a nation of shining saints.

As Ezekiel begins to speak, life enters into the stiff bodies and they rise to become “an exceedingly great army”.

After the first prophetic proclamation a massive miracle unfolds as the dry bone start to move, rearrange themselves into skeletons, and finally become covered with flesh and sinews. The bones turned into a large number of restored bodies, yet they were still dead!

Then God tells him to prophesy a second time: “Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.” (Ezekiel 37:9)

As Ezekiel begins to speak, life enters into the stiff bodies and they rise to become “an exceedingly great army”.

Two of the great prophetic chapters on this restoration, Ezekiel 36 and 37, both foresee two phases in this restoration process for Israel. The first phase will be a physical return back to the Land of Israel. The ancient cities will be rebuilt, barren ground will become fertile fields, and an exiled people will re-gather in their homeland. But God also promises a second phase of restoration which will bring forth a spiritual restoration of the entire nation.

As the prophet Ezekiel is confronted with the vision of Israel as a hopeless field of dry bones, God twice tells him to prophesy.

The theme for this year’s Feast of Tabernacles celebration is “The Spirit of Grace and Supplication”, which is taken from Zechariah 12:10 and touches upon one of the most exciting, yet unfulfilled promises, for the Jewish people in the Bible. It was the common understanding of the Old Testament prophets that the end-time restoration of Israel would not only be a restoration to their land but also – and more importantly – a return to their God.

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As the prophet Ezekiel is confronted with the vision of Israel as a hopeless field of dry bones, God twice tells him to prophesy.
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was founded in 1980 as an act of comfort and solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people in their claim to Jerusalem.

Today, the Christian Embassy stands at the forefront of a growing mainstream movement of Christians worldwide who share a love and concern for Israel and an understanding of the biblical significance of the modern ingathering of Jews to the land of their forefathers.

From our headquarters in Jerusalem and through our branches and representatives in over 80 nations, we seek to challenge the Church to take up its scriptural responsibilities towards the Jewish people, to remind Israel of the wonderful promises made to her in the Bible, and to be a source of practical assistance to all the people of the Land of Israel.

The ICEJ is a non-denominational faith ministry, supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends across the globe. We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by using the enclosed response slip to make your donation to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.

Dear friends,

"Thus says the Lord: ‘I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem’. (Zechariah 8:3)

Recently, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem hosted some 100 key Israeli leaders and friends, together with many local Christian colleagues, for a special reception to mark Yom Yerushalayim. Jerusalem Day is the annual celebration that commemorates the reunification of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in June 1967. Many of the Jewish guests at our reception expressed how much the Christian Embassy’s presence means to them, in a time when it seems the whole world is turning against Israel.

We were again reminded of the story behind the founding of the ICEJ in 1980, when the Knesset declared reunited Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Israel. The last 13 national embassies in Jerusalem then relocated to Tel Aviv under the pressure of an Arab oil embargo. In that moment of isolation for Israel, more than 1000 Christians from some 40 nations were gathering in Jerusalem for the first public Christian celebration the Feast of Tabernacles. They decided to establish the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem to represent Christians from around the world who want to show love and solidarity with the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem.

The above passage from Zechariah declares that the calling of Jerusalem is eternal since God has chosen this city as His habitation. The history of Jerusalem goes back to Melchizedek, the Priest-King who was a powerful foreshadowing of Jesus (Genesis 14, Hebrews 5-7). Melchizedek connected this city for all eternity with the divine values of peace and righteousness. No wonder that the Prince of Peace will one day come and dwell in this city. He will establish a rule of righteousness and peace and one day the whole world will look to Jerusalem for direction and guidance (Isaiah 2).

Today, the Christian Embassy represents Christians from more than 130 nations who declare their solidarity and friendship with Jerusalem and the entire nation of Israel. Our calling to comfort and bless the Jewish people has remained unchanged since 1980. We are your Embassy in Jerusalem!

Let me thank you for your faithful support which makes a measurable difference here in Jerusalem. We pray that God will bless you as you bless Zion – the city of the Great King!

Blessings,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

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Word From Jerusalem

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Support our ministry online at: www.icej.org
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem recently hosted a traditional Jerusalem Day reception on its grounds which drew a wide array of Israeli officials and Jewish and Christian leaders in the land. Guests included officials from the Prime Minister’s Office, the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Tourism, the Chief Rabbinate, the deputy mayor of Jerusalem, and senior representatives from Yad Vashem, the World Jewish Congress, Bnai Brith Israel, and many other organisations.

ICEJ Executive Director Dr. Juergen Buehler introduced Merv Watson as the first to conceive of the idea of a Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, which in its 30-plus years of existence has developed the scope of its activities and influence way beyond what its founding fathers ever imagined.

“This is an answer to a dream,” said Watson, who had toured the world in the late 1970s hoping that his idea would inspire other Christians to realise the significance of Jerusalem as the spiritual, historic and political capital of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, and as a holy city of pilgrimage for Christians.

“We didn’t need another church or synagogue but common ground where people could meet as friends,” said Watson as he happily greeted the crowd of Jews and Christians mingling on the lawns of the Embassy’s premises.

Watson also noted that in 1978, his wife Merla organised an initial Feast of Tabernacles gathering for Christians in Jerusalem, even before the ICEJ had been established.

*David Parsons serves as ICEJ Media Director in Jerusalem*
“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.” (Ezekiel 36:27)

Moses foresaw this development even before Israel first entered the Promised Land.

Moses understood that Israel would be exiled but also return to their land, where God would “circumcise their heart... to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live” (Deuteronomy 30:6).

In John chapter 3, when Jesus talks to Nicodemus – one of the greatest rabbis of his time – he compares this process with somebody being “born again”. Everything will become new, regenerated from within.

**Personal Relationship with God**

Unlike Christianity, Judaism traditionally sees relationship with God not so much from the individual perspective but as a community experience between the nation and God. It is more a corporate understanding of “We and our God”, rather than “I and my God”. According to most rabbis, God deals with Israel as a nation rather than with the individual Jew.

The prophet Isaiah suggests that this collective national experience with God will be expanded into a very individual and personal relationship with God.

“For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, ... One will say, ‘I am the Lord’s’; Another will call himself by the name of Jacob; Another will write with his hand, ‘The Lord’s’, and name himself by the name of Israel.” (Isaiah 44:3-5)

And this is exactly what characterizes the new covenant relationship which the prophet Jeremiah foresees for a restored people of Israel: “No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord’, for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord.” (Jeremiah 31:34)

Herein lies a significant lesson for each one of us. Being part of the Kingdom of God means each one of us is privileged to enjoy a very personal relationship with God. Yes, we are part of a large family with many members, which always has and needs a communal expression. But at the same time each one of God’s children should personally hear the voice of our Heavenly Father. As is promised to Israel, everyone who has the Spirit of God needs to be able to say very personally, “I am the Lord’s!” And on our hands it should be written, “The Lord’s” – meaning each one of us belongs to the Father in heaven.

**Peace & Security**

Another direct result of the outpouring of the Spirit of God will be the ushering in of righteousness, peace and safety. The prophet Isaiah (in 32:10-14) describes a rather distressful picture for Israel: unfruitfulness, the palaces are forsaken, the city deserted, Jerusalem had became “a joy of wild donkeys a pasture of flocks”.

But God places a time limit to this time of trouble for Israel. He declares that this disturbing situation will last “until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high” (Isaiah 32:15). And this changes everything! The words which then describe the time after the Spirit of God has been poured out are: “justice”, “righteousness”, “peace”, “quietness and assurance forever”, “secure dwelling”, “quiet resting places”, “peaceful habitations” (verses 16 and following).

Now this is exactly what both Jews and Arabs have been longing for over so many decades. This means God’s roadmap for peace in the Middle East is revival – the outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

**National & Personal Deliverance**

The prophets also saw a very unusual result of a Holy Spirit outpouring: deliverance from their enemies! Isaiah sees the enemies coming upon Israel “like a flood”, but then beholds “the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).
Already in chapter 10, when Israel is being suppressed by the Assyrian army, God promises Isaiah that this yoke will be broken “by the anointing oil” – a powerful symbol of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 10:27).

In addition, the prophet Zechariah is reminded by God that in Israel’s time of need the ultimate deliverance will not come through an almighty army. Instead, God declares: “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts’. The Lord also adds that there is no mountain or challenge too big for Him: “Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!” (Zechariah 4:6-7)

What powerful and encouraging declarations for Israel!

**The Recognition of Messiah**

Another of the amazing results of this outpouring of the Spirit will be that they will “look upon him who they have pierced” and that they will “mourn for him as of an only begotten son” (Zechariah 12:10).

It is worth noting what the Talmud has to say regarding this passage. On the question of why there was such mourning in Jerusalem, the Talmud declares: “It is on account of the Messiah, the son of Joseph, who was killed.”

This refers to the two types of Messiah in Jewish tradition. One is Mosiach ben-David, Messiah the Son of David, who will liberate and rule the nation. But there is also the suffering Mosiach ben-Yoseph, referring to Joseph, the son of Jacob, who suffered at the hand of his brothers, saved the nations from starvation, and later reconciled with his family. It is fascinating to consider that the Talmud and the New Testament understanding agree that the outpouring of the Spirit of Grace will lead in Israel to a national recognition of the Suffering Messiah! May that day come soon!

**A Promise for Israel**

Large parts of the Christian world see the Holy Spirit as an exclusive gift to the gentile Church. The above passages should remind us that also the Spirit of God is promised “to the Jew first”.

Speaking of the “gift of the Holy Spirit”, the Apostle Peter told a Jewish audience in the Temple courts in Jerusalem: “For the promise is to you and to your children…” (Act 2:39)

If there is any nation which has a legitimate right to expect the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, it is Israel!

That being said, I want to encourage all of us to hunger for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit for ourselves. These promises reviewed here are true for all those who through faith in Jesus Christ became part of the family of God.

Invite the Holy Spirit to transform your life. Allow the Spirit of God to empower you afresh. Expect the anointing of the Spirit to break the yoke which stops you from fulfilling the calling of God on your life. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus more fully to you. And allow the Spirit of son-ship to bring you into more intimate relationship with our Father in heaven. It will change your life!

We also want to invite you to join us for this year’s Feast celebration in Jerusalem, as we gather the last of September expecting a fresh outpouring of His Spirit under the theme, “The Spirit of Grace and Supplication”. We are making arrangements for special prayer and body ministry, and you will most assuredly be blessed.

Finally, please pray with us that God’s spirit of Grace and supplication will be poured out soon on the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the House of David! Join our Isaiah 62 Prayer Campaign. By His Spirit, we can remove mountains! 😊

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” Zechariah 12:10
In early June, a team of three ICEJ staff members set off on a 477-kilometer (296-mile) bike trek from Metulla on the northern border to the Red Sea resort of Eilat on the southern tip, in order to raise much-needed funds for the Disabled Sports Center in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan.

Herbert Kelly from South Africa, Jani Salokangas from Finland and Emanuel Mfoukou from Sweden/Congo secured sponsorships from Christians around the world who pledged different amounts for every kilometer they travelled over the course of the three-day trek. The initiative was conceived by Salokangas, the new director of the ICEJ’s Arise young adults program, as a potential annual charity bike ride.

“We realised we have to do something for others, even if it was tough going”, said Salokangas. “It was also a unique way to connect with this land. Everything we saw stayed deep inside of us.”

With daily temperatures hovering over 40 degrees C (104 F), the gruelling route took them across the Hula Valley, astride the Sea of Galilee, down the Jordan Valley, past the Dead Sea and then through the Arava desert to Eilat.

The three brave riders did not lose their sense of humour on the way. “I was saved only by the grace of God, and only by the grace of God will we finish this race,” Herbert laughed at the end of the first day.

Dubbed “The 477 Quest”, the initiative aimed to raise funds to help sponsor members of the Israeli team training for the 2016 Paralympic Games in Brazil, and to replace the well-worn court used by the wheelchair basketball league at the Ramat Gan facility.

The ICEJ has sponsored sports training sessions for disabled Israeli athletes for about a decade, and has committed to help upgrade the sports facility in Ramat Gan as well.

An accompanying team documented the bike ride by video in order to produce a positive informational film on Israel and to build this inaugural ride into an annual event.

“The idea is to continue with follow-up efforts, bike again next year, and hopefully turn it into an annual challenge”, explained Salokangas. “We hope next spring more cyclists from other countries will be able to join us too!”. 


Pastor Mulinde
ICEJ Assists Recovering Ugandan Pastor in Israel

By David Parsons

Last Christmas Eve, Pastor Umar Mulinde was assaulted by radical Muslims with a very potent acid as he left his church in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. After vainly seeking adequate medical care for his severe facial burns in hospitals in Uganda and India, he was invited to Israel as a “medical tourist” and admitted to Sheba Medical Center near Tel Aviv, known for its world-class treatment of burn victims.

Ever since, Pastor Mulinde has been receiving the best care possible and is slowly recovering thanks to advanced skin-grafting techniques and other procedures performed by Sheba. Although he lost his right eye, doctors are confident his wounds will fully heal and he will be happy with his restored face.

So far, Sheba Medical Center has waived the enormous medical bills that have piled up for Pastor Mulinde’s care, treating him as if he were an Israeli victim of terror. The reason is that he is a Muslim convert to Christianity who was attacked by Islamic militants for sharing his faith and for teaching his followers to love Israel.

Pastor Mulinde has truly appreciated the top-notch care at Sheba, but he has sorely missed his family and felt helpless to protect them from the continuing death threats being received by his church back home. So in June, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem sponsored a visit to Israel by his wife Evelyn and the two youngest of his six children — twin brothers Joshua and Caleb.

The family reunion included a tour of Israel sponsored by the ICEJ and arranged by Shoresh Tours out of Christ Church, who specialise in “Hebraic Roots” tours of the Holy Land and just happened to have a large group of Ugandan pastors arriving on a visit to the land in early June.

“We are so thankful for the support of the Christian Embassy. This has been an exciting moment for us to be together...”

“I have been in pain and mostly alone for six months, but it was physically and emotionally encouraging to see my wife and two sons”, said Mulinde.

“We are so thankful for the support of the Christian Embassy. This has been a very exciting moment for us to be together, and a learning moment for our family – to learn more about the Bible here in the Land of Israel.”

“This visit has really helped my twin sons, who are only three-and-a-half years old and had started questioning why God would let their father suffer so much,” Mulinde added. “But when they saw the land and the Bible sites, their faith was really encouraged. God is real again in their lives!”

The ICEJ has also just published a booklet with Pastor Mulinde’s powerful testimony of how he came to faith in Jesus and learned to love Israel, as well as his personal account of the trials he has faced since the terror attack late last year. You may order “Facing Persecution: The Story of Umar Mulinde” from Embassy Resources online at: www.icej.org/store.
In a country that places such emphasis on securing its borders, it is hard to believe Israel would be a centre for human trafficking and the sex-slave trade. Unpleasant though this sad reality is, it is one that Christian supporters of Israel need to face head-on with the love and compassion of Jesus...
In a country that places such emphasis on securing its borders, it is hard to believe Israel would be a place for human trafficking. How great a surprise to learn that the sex slave trade not only exists in Israel, but is a thriving business. It is not a nice story to tell, but we need to face up to this sad reality as Christian supporters of Israel.

Since the 1990s, Israel has become one of the central destinations for trafficking in captive women. Nine out of 10 of the women smuggled into Israel were never involved in prostitution prior to entering the country. Meanwhile, girls who grew up in Israel and turn to prostitution usually have experienced sexual abuse in their childhood, often through incest.

The ICEJ is currently working together with several local centers that care for abused women, fight for the unborn, and battle for new laws that would stop human trafficking in Israel.

The majority of the women trafficked into Israel are brought via Egypt using Bedouin guides. Over three thousand enslaved women arrive each year. Most are convinced they will be working as caretakers, nannies or dancers, but as soon as they cross the border they realise something is not right, especially when their passports are taken away. Some are even abused as they travel by the men transporting them.

The girls get purchased by pimps for sums ranging from $4,000 to $10,000. Soon, they get locked up in apartments with other girls and await their new involuntary destiny. Over half will face abuse from the hands of their clients; almost all will be abused by their ‘owners’.

Every month, men in Israel visit brothels an estimated one million times. The average age of a “woman” who enters into prostitution in Israel is between 12 and 13 years old. Tel Aviv, Israel’s largest coastal city, is in dire need of prayer and intervention, as the old central bus station area in the southern part of town has turned into a district of brothels and drug dealers.

Some very prominent lawyers are currently pushing for a law that would greatly impact the reality of this shameful industry. As opposed to criminalizing the women and minors, who are victims of the sex industry, the law would target the purchasers of sex. The goal is simple: no clients = no demand.

One of the organisations that the ICEJ is partnering with on this problem is “Abundant Life”, which reaches out to women engaged in prostitution and offers special care to those that are pregnant. Most of them are addicted to drugs and have no means to support themselves, not to mention a little child.

Last year Anat and Ishai, directors of Abundant Life, started a new project that focuses on reaching out to these women trapped in the darkness. After praying for a homeless prostitute on the beach in Tel Aviv one day, they noticed the woman kept picking and scratching her toes as they were praying for her. Her feet were dirty and itchy from lack of proper care. So a new idea was born to connect with these desperate women in a simple way.

Soon, they opened a new center in the middle of town where the prostitutes could come for manicures and pedicures, and at the same time have a chance to talk to someone who cares for them. The center began its operations last December under the name Red Carpet. The women who visit the center are Jewish, Arab, or from Russian-speaking countries.

With support from ICEJ AID, the center now provides an escape from the gruesome reality these women face every day. In addition to the treatments, the center offers food, home-baked cookies, clothes, and even showers. Anat and Ishai are seeking for a nurse to treat them medically as well.

Israel is making significant progress in bringing this problem under control, and has just been upgraded in an annual US report to Tier-1 status, meaning a much improved record of compliance with international standards on human trafficking.

Yet through ICEJ AID, you can have a life-changing impact on those still trapped in this degrading form of slavery. Support this vital work today!

Estera Wieja is a staff writer for the ICEJ Media team in Jerusalem

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Nomads to New Computers

Touching the lives of the Israel’s Bedouin tribes

By Estera Wieja

What happens to an Arab tribe living in the desert when their surrounding area is handed over by one country to another? Whole generations of nomads had to leave the Sinai Peninsula in the 1970s when Israel agreed to hand over the area to Egypt. The peace treaty between the two countries has lasted decades, but so have many of the problems it created for these Bedouin tribes.

For many tourists visiting the Holy Land, the sight of Bedouins still living in tents is a cultural oddity. It is strange for us that whole families would choose to spend their lives in tents, moving from place to place. Yet these tribes are very real in Israel, and so are their struggles.

The Bedouin tribes in Israel have been granted citizenship, and half have moved into modern housing while the remaining half live in so-called unrecognised villages. Successive Israeli governments have tried to ‘urbanize’ the nomadic Bedouin of the Negev desert, often in order to provide them proper public services like schooling and healthcare.

Meantime, a good number of Bedouin families from the Sinai decided to settle down in the Galilee, such as the villages around Mt. Tabor. Today, their youngsters go to Israeli schools and serve in the IDF.

But this was a long adapting process, as the strangeness of the outside world helped their community come together. Many realised that they can secure their own rights and well-being by helping one another. Thus a group of Bedouin decided to start an organisation in 2002 to serve their people through education and practical training. In the following years they struggled through many hardships, but in 2006 new doors began to open.

That was when ICEJ AID and the Dutch Embassy in Israel helped establish new programs for the newly renamed Al Khaimah center, which in Arabic means tent or umbrella. It has since become a safe place for the new generations to learn and grow.

Said, a Bedouin businessman, runs the Al Khaimah educational center. He is one of the few in his generation to receive a quality higher education, and he also worked as a journalist. Today, he strives to give the next generation better opportunities than many of his childhood friends had, while also retaining their unique identity.

“We had our own way of life, our traditions, our habits... We need to preserve them, and in many cases we need to revive them first!” Said explains.

“Up to a certain point, the Bedouin didn’t care about education, they just wanted to make money,” Said added. “But as they started to work for money, they realised there was no one to take care of the children at home. So schools became a key solution.”

With support from believers around the world, the ICEJ has remodelled the center’s classrooms and provided equipment for them. New tables and bookshelves have been purchased, as well as new computers with high quality screens. Qualified teachers help the kids use these computers in a beneficial way. The children can now learn both the skills they will need in the future, as well as who they are and where they come from.

Please support this and other worthy projects in Israel. Give today to ICEJ AID at www.icej.org/aid.
Russian Breakthrough
ICEJ Russia hosts high-level gathering in St. Petersburg
By Aaron Hecht

The ICEJ’s national branch in Russia, headed by Howard Flower (also our Aliyah director), hosted a high-level delegation from Israel in mid-June for ground-breaking meetings with local evangelical Christian leaders. Two Knesset members as well as officials from the Knesset Christian Allies’ Caucus and the World Jewish Congress were on hand to address the largest pro-Israel gathering ever in Russia, held in the picturesque city of St. Petersburg.

Reinstein added that “with the international assault against the nation-state of the Jewish people becoming stronger and more sophisticated, especially in Europe, Israel needs more friends and allies”.

The three-day conference was covered extensively by the media, including a report by TBN-Russia sent out over their satellite network to all the former Soviet republics and the Russian diaspora worldwide, including the Russian-speaking population of Israel.

The Israeli delegation also was offered a special private tour of the Hermitage Museum led personally by Pastor Poliakoff, who studied art at the University in St. Petersburg. He explained that during Communist times it was forbidden to own a Bible but believers could come to the Hermitage and view the masterpieces on display there which vividly portray many key Bible stories, such as Rembrandt’s classic painting of Abraham’s binding of Isaac.

As the meeting concluded, plans were already underway for several large Russian Christian groups to come to Israel, including for the ICEJ’s Feast of Tabernacles in late September.

Aaron Hecht is a staff writer for the ICEJ Media team in Jerusalem

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