The church in Brazil today is both experiencing incredible revival and standing strong with Israel. A recent revival meeting organised by Apostle Rene Terra Nova.

The PROPHETIC CHURCH
Are you an observer or a fulfiller?

To be alive today and to witness the fulfillment of ancient promises from God is one of the greatest privileges given to our generation! We are indeed a people born into a unique period of salvation history. No generation in Church history was allowed to see the prophetic word of God being fulfilled before their eyes in the manner we are today. Even when Jesus came in human flesh, his prophetic role was seen and understood only by a few. Today, signs of the times are everywhere, for all to see!

THE SPIRIT-EMPOWERED CHURCH
The prophet Joel foresaw a coming time when God’s Spirit would be “poured out on all flesh”. He saw this move of God impacting all ethnic groups, young and old, rich and poor, male and female alike.

We are incredibly honoured to see this being fulfilled before our eyes as revival fires are sweeping across the globe in an unprecedented manner. Within our generation literally hundreds of millions of people have been swept into the Kingdom. Never before in human history have we seen a move of God like this!

According to different Christian research institutes, the Evangelical movement has grown to more than 700 million believers at present. In China alone, the churches have grown to more than 120 million followers within the past five decades. And a new and exciting move of God is hitting the Middle East, where we are now seeing historic church growth in countries like Iran and Afghanistan.

Jesus himself declares that “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14). What we see happening today is a powerful harbinger of the soon return of the King of Kings to this world. We are living in exciting times!

>> CONTINUED ON PAGES 3-4
Director's Letter

Dear friends,

This month's edition of the Word from Jerusalem is again focusing on the return of the Bnei Menashe community from northeast India. The last days return of the scattered Jewish people back to their ancient homeland is one of the central themes of the Bible. Even prior to 1948, before the state of Israel was re-established, great men of God recognised the importance of God's end-time purposes in restoring Israel to her land.

In 1781, John Wesley wrote in his study notes on the book of Romans about the restoration of Israel: "So many prophecies refer to this grand event, that it is surprising any Christian can doubt of it."

"I imagine that you cannot read the Bible without seeing clearly that there is to be an actual restoration of the children of Israel," Spurgeon concluded.

Thus it is even more perplexing today, with a Jewish state already planted back in the land, that some Christians can read their Bibles and still fail to see the great work of restoration which God is doing in regathering Israel. It is a powerful declaration of God's covenant faithfulness to His people. Our God is a covenant keeping God!

This gives great assurance to us as New Testament believers today (Hebrews 6:13-20). The fact that God can not and will not change His mind regarding Israel, but keeps his promises, gives the Church an unshakable hope "which we have as an anchor" (Hebrews 6:19).

Never allow this hope to be taken from you!

In Christ!

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

The second major prophetic fulfillment which is unfolding before our eyes is the return of the Jewish people back to their land. The modern-day restoration of Israel has happened exactly as the prophets foretold!

Right after the Holocaust, the Jewish people found themselves at the lowest point in their history. Six million Jews had been brutally murdered by Nazi Germany while the world looked on. When American soldiers began entering the liberated concentration camps, they were welcomed by emaciated survivors who had barely escaped the gas chambers and ovens of Auschwitz and other death camps. In some of the camps, US soldiers were confronted by heaps of human bones which SS troopers could not burn in time. They witnessed hell on earth!

Seeing these shocking photos, I am often reminded of the 'prayer of the afflicted':

"For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned like a hearth. My heart is stricken and withered like grass, so that I forget to eat my bread. Because of the sound of my groaning my bones cling to my skin." (Psalm 102:3-5)

But then, the Psalmist breaks through the desolation and makes a bold declaration of hope and faith. He understood that in spite of the bleak situation, there is always hope for the people of God: "You will arise and have mercy on Zion. For the time to favor her, Yes, the set time, has come. ... the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory." (Psalm 102:13,16)

In a similar manner, the prophet Ezekiel was confronted by a haunting vision from God in which he saw Israel as a massive valley of dry bones. Every single bone cried out to him... "our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!" (Ezekiel 37:11)

Yet the prophet Ezekiel then hears God Himself declaring over the lifeless pile of dry bones that was Israel: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it," says the Lord." (Ezekiel 37:12-14)

THE SET TIME HAS COME!

The 'set time to favor Zion' has indeed come! Today, we are witness to one of the greatest prophetic events in human history coming to pass, exceeding even in magnitude the Exodus from Egypt (Jeremiah 31:13).

Millions of Christians have witnessed this modern-day miracle as they have travelled through the Holy Land and seen Jews who have returned to Israel from all corners of the globe. Every pilgrim could testify that the ancient cities are surely being rebuilt exactly as the prophets foretold (Ezekiel 36:10).

Further, Israel started out some 60 years ago as an agriculture-based economy but now has become one of the world’s leaders in hi-tech innovations. Many helpful gadgets we use in our daily lives are made possible through technological advances made in Israel. Modern Israel has become a “light to the nations" in many respects. But the word of God also promises that this will one day be exceeded by a spiritual revival in Israel which will be so powerful that the Gentile nations will perceive it as “life from the dead” (Romans 11:15).

>> continued on page 4
Bnei Menashe coming home after 2,700 years

>> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

BECOME A FULLFILER!

Now it is not enough just to observe prophetic events. God wants us to act! He wants us to be doers of the word! To become fullfillers – participants and co-labourers in this exciting move of God. Each one of us has a role to play.

One day, Jesus told two of his disciples to go take a certain action so “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet...” (Matthew 21:4).

Today, God is calling Christians from all over the world to arise and play a critical role in what He is doing with Israel and the Jewish people.

The noted theologian Richard Wurmbrand once stated: “God is not looking for debaters of the word but for fulfillers!” Jesus himself once stated: “God is not looking for debaters of the word but for fulfillers!” Jesus himself

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has been asked to sponsor the first flight of Bnei Menashe now being allowed to come home to Israel, which is expected to set down at Ben-Gurion Airport in September. Come and partner with us in bringing these sons of Israel back to the land, so “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet”.

For more than 60 years now, the reborn nation of Israel has been a massive banner for the Gentiles. In biblical times, standards or banners were used to rally the people of God to battle or to rejoice in victory. The nation of Israel today has become a banner which is calling the Church to action! He calls us to rally together beneath this timely standard of the Lord, to join hands as He brings His people back home.

The prophetic Church is one that is both involved in world missions and active in prophetic fulfillment regarding Israel. Make your decision today to join us as we show favour to Zion. Don’t be a mere observer – be a fullfiler! (8)

ICEJ SPONSORS LATEST

Aliyah Fair

BY BIRTE SCHOLZ & ESTERA WIEJA

In recent decades, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has helped some 115,000 Jewish people make the journey home to Israel. In June, the ICEJ again sponsored an Aliyah Fair for 900 new arrivals from France, Argentina, England and South Africa, paying for their rooms and meals at a Jerusalem hotel so they could take part in a “Red Carpet” welcome event to receive Israeli ID cards and secure health insurance, bank accounts and cell phones – all within 24 hours of landing.

Sophie, who came with her husband and two small children from Paris, explained why they came but asked not to give their last name to protect Jewish relatives back in France.

“We walked through the streets and... everybody was celebrating. I had to cry, it was so beautiful. I feel connected with Israel. God is here!”

Yet they were not only drawn to Israel, they were chased here as well.

“There is a lot of anti-Semitism in France, therefore I don’t want to stay there any longer with my children. Financially we probably had a better life in France, but here in Israel we are free to live as Jews, and it is also better for the kids”, Ariella assured.

During a visit to Israel for Sukkot two years ago, she realized how much she misses the observance of her Jewish faith in safety.

“We walked through the streets and... everybody was celebrating. I had to cry, it was so beautiful. I feel connected with Israel. God is here!”

Some 100,000 French Jews now live in Israel and another 2,000 are coming each year. But 500,000 remain in France, making it the largest Jewish community in Europe.

Until recently, France was a comfortable place for Jews to live. However, violent incidents like the deadly shooting attack at a Jewish day school in Toulouse in March have stirred fears of growing Islamic anti-Semitism. Today, many more are considering a permanent move to Israel.

PLEASE JOIN US IN HELPING MORE JEWS COME HOME TO ISRAEL

You can make your gift to support the Aliyah Operations of ICEJ at http://int.icej.org/aid/aliyah

‘The nation of Israel today has become a banner which is calling the Church to action!’

“We beheld, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and set up My standard for the peoples. They shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders; Kings shall be your foster fathers, and your queens your nursing mothers...” (Isaiah 49:22-23)

‘We walked through Jerusalem and everybody was celebrating Sukkot. I had to cry, it was so beautiful. I feel connected with Israel. God is here!’

Support our Aliyah Operations on behalf of the Bnei Menashe and other Jewish communities as they make their way home to Israel. Donate today at http://int.icej.org/aid/aliyah
ICEJ Sponsors Mentor Program to Ensure New Immigrants get Planted in Israel

By Estera Wieja

Besides assisting in the aliyah of more than 115,000 Jews over recent decades, the International Christian Embassy has been helping new immigrants get established in the land of Israel. The government provides an “absorption basket” of housing grants and other incentives for those immigrant families in need of assistance, but it often runs out before the olim (newcomers) get truly settled in the land. For the neediest families, their struggles with adjusting to life in a new country and culture continue long after their flights touch down.

In recent years, ICEJ AID has been sponsoring a special program which assigns Israeli families as personal mentors to needy immigrant families, to help shepherd them through all the challenges of life in Israel. Bolstered by the Christian Embassy’s support, the mentoring program has quickly proven to be a successful way for those making aliyah to get planted back in the land of their forefathers.

The mentoring program is a uniquely innovative model for lifting newly-arrived families out of poverty and into mainstream society.

The program operates centers in several Israeli cities, where veteran Israelis are partnered with newcomers as “family guides” over the first year after their arrival. The guide examines the family’s particular needs, identifies their strong and weak points, and assesses the major factors preventing them from achieving financial independence.

The guide and his assigned family then develop a year’s work plan to put them on their own by the first anniversary of their arrival.

Along the way, families may receive free legal advice, marriage counselling and other family services to make the absorption process easier.

The program was launched five years ago with five arriving families. By the end of this year, it will have helped 450 families.

ICEJ AID is especially keen to help families with single mothers. Many of these women are looking for job training or even simple advice about ordinary life in Israel, such as finding day-care for their children.

In Jerusalem, ICEJ AID recently met a single mother with seven children who made aliyah from France several years ago and is still struggling with the Hebrew language, as well as with finding work in her profession because her degree did not have any Israeli equivalent. Her children go to Israeli schools, but at home they continue to speak French.

“Without knowing the language, it’s not easy for me to find friends, and I have no other family here”, the mother confided. “You are my family!”

DONATE TO ICEJ AID AT int.icej.org/aid/icej-aid

Making Israel Home

By Carrie Burns

They are Cuban Jews – she is a paediatrician and he is an ER nurse. Their combined monthly income back in Castro’s Cuba was $44.95 a month. For food, they were allowed five eggs per person each month, but that’s all they could afford anyway. Forget about meat! And even the beautiful beaches on this Caribbean island were so expensive, they were only for tourists.

Before they left for Israel, his aging mother had a stroke and their twenty-year old daughter was not permitted to leave with them. For five years, they diligently worked to get out, but because Cuba desperately needs health care workers, taking leave was made more difficult for them.

Once Geraldo, Fernanda and their youngest daughter, Alegria (we changed their names to protect them) left the island of Cuba, their citizenship was renounced.

As they laboured with the language, they also have worked with lawyers for seven months to bring their oldest daughter, Alejandra, to Israel. They are still working to retrieve their legal documents from Cuba, and still looking for meaningful employment. They must re-write their resumes in Hebrew, pass medical licensing exams in Hebrew, and spend time interning with Israeli health care workers before practising on their own.

When asked, “Is it worth it?”, Geraldo and Fernanda showed a mix of love and disbelief. They do not miss Cuba, though Geraldo still has tearful concern for his mother. They are happy in Israel and full of hope because they are surrounded by caring people who are helping them through an ICEJ-sponsored mentoring program.

This has connected them to the right services and immersed them in a circle of grace. The mentors have helped them become a motivated family with a comprehensive plan to succeed. Goals have been set in four spheres – quality of life, finances, education and employment.

With the help of the Christian Embassy, this family of Cuban Jews have the tools they need to adjust and even contribute to their new land. The “big suffer” has been worth it.

SUPPORT ICEJ AID AT int.icej.org/aid/icej-aid
Thousands of Israelis in dire financial straits have been taking to the streets again this summer to protest cuts in social budgets and the lack of affordable housing. But the social protest movement took a tragic turn recently when a man named Moshe Silman, who had been out of work for some time and was being evicted from his apartment, set himself alight at a public rally in Tel Aviv. He was treated for severe burns and eventually succumbed to his wounds. But his actions jolted the nation into realising that there is a serious problem when a skilled worker like Moshe Silman takes such drastic measures.

Several days later, Israeli TV’s main evening news program, Mabat, reported that Moshe had visited a homeless shelter in Haifa several weeks before to ask for a room. The aid center was able to provide him with some food and money and paid some of his unpaid bills, but their shelter was already too packed with others hit by the rising poverty in Israel. They promised to try to find him a place to stay but he never checked back. The news report then ended with the question: “Who has been paying to house all these homeless people? It is the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem…”

Over recent years, the ICEJ has indeed been the primary source of funding for the charity in Haifa which runs the homeless shelter, as well as a unique assisted-living home for destitute Holocaust survivors and several soup kitchens. In fact, we just paid the mounting electric bills for the 18 apartments in the shelter, which houses dozens of homeless people and helps them find work.

The more we are able to give, the more our local charitable partners are able to do for the growing number of needy Israelis coming for assistance. Help us make sure the next Moshe Silman has a place to stay. 

DONATE TODAY TO ICEJ AID AT int.icej.org/aid/icej-aid

See the report aired on Channel One TV’s Mabat evening news at http://int.icej.org/news/special-reports/room-moshe-silman
Arise tour gets up-close and personal with Israel

Israel is considered an affluent country but beneath its economic success is a lot of lack and pain. Some 24% of Israelis live below the poverty line, including many single-parent families.

For this reason, the Arise Summer Hands-On Tour for 2012 took time away from our visits to Bible sites so we could reach out to the hurting and needy.

The group of 31 young Christians from nine different countries began our tour visiting holy places in Jerusalem. We spent a night in tents in a Bedouin oasis, where we had an awesome time of worship and prayer. We also hiked up Masada before dawn and then spent two exciting days exploring the Galilee.

In between touring and lectures, the Arise tour took part in several hands-on social projects. For instance, we volunteered at an absorption center in Jerusalem for Ethiopian Jewish immigrants, painting rooms and hallways, and joining children in creating a beautiful mosaic of Jerusalem.

“This was a really great experience because we got to reach out to a group that is not usually the focus of attention”, said Kerrie from Northern Ireland. “I started talking to one lady and she took me to her apartment and offered beautiful hospitality. We were there to bless, but I was blessed at the way she just let me into her life.”

The Arise summer tour also visited Yad Vashem, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs to hear lectures about Israel’s history and the challenges the nation is facing today. We also heard biblical teachings on how to live closer to Jesus, and about God’s love and plan for Israel.

“I am more motivated to pray for Israel based on the promises for Israel in the Bible and more hopeful for Israel’s future”, said Els from Holland.

Another hands-on project was volunteering with the unique food bank Leket Israel, where we gleaned tomatoes from the fields to give to needy families. After only two hours we had picked nearly a ton of tomatoes, enough to feed some 500 families!

Our final project was visiting the ICEJ’s Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa. We cleaned up around the home and then spent time with survivors over lunch. It was wonderful to listen to their stories and to speak encouragement to them. Despite all that has happened to them, they are very warm and caring people, full of life and joy.

“I had an awesome experience meeting the Holocaust survivors”, said Bernice from Australia. “I started talking to one lady and she took me to her apartment and offered beautiful hospitality. We were there to bless, but I was blessed at the way she just let me into her life.”

But most Israelis know it would be a foolish move at present, as it would only make Israel a more vulnerable target given the Iranian threat.

The Jewish people indeed have a superior claim to sovereignty over all the Land of Israel, but by definition “sovereignty” includes the right to give land away. Through Oslo, Israel unfortunately impaired its own title – though not beyond repair. The Levy report represents an effort to reassert Jewish rights in the territories.

Today, this dispute continues but in a different context. It has more to do with maintaining Israel’s good relations with the United States, which is so crucial to Israel’s security, especially in light of the growing Iranian nuclear threat. So proponents of territorial concessions now offer the “land for centrifuges” formula.

Now some Christians have so spiritualized the land promise that they say Abraham was actually meant to inherit the cosmos. Yet the Land of Israel is still a piece of real estate which can be ploughed and paved over like any other. And the Bible is clear that God meant a certain tract of land in the Middle East, even giving us several “metes and bounds” descriptions.

But most Christians argue that we should not get hung up on the land promise, since it is not an essential doctrine of salvation.

Yet the land question matters greatly because it goes to the very character of God. Can He be trusted to keep His promises? Hebrews chapter 6 basically tells us that the same unchanging God who swore to give the Land of Israel to Abraham’s descendants (Psalm 105:7-15), likewise swore that Christ is our High Priest forever (Psalm 110:4). So those who say the land promise no longer matters to God are also suggesting He could change His mind about the blood of Jesus. And that is dangerous ground for any Christian to be on!
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

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Since 1980 the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has stood 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.

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- Bringing Jews Home
- Defending Israel Worldwide
- Celebrating the Feast
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