MILESTONE IN ALIYAH
ICEJ HELPS 100,000 COME HOME

"Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth."
Isaiah 43:5-6
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ)

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 worldwide. We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide.

If you wish to make a donation to the general work of the ICEJ or to a specific project described in this magazine, please use the attached response envelope, use the address below or visit our Web site at www.icej.org/donate.php to send your gift. All donations are tax deductible according to the law of your country.

Cover Photo:
The ICEJ’s 50th sponsored aliyah flight, spring 1995. (Sherwood Burton)
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MAIL TO: Coresco Inc., 1407 Airport Road, Suite 7905, Monroe NC 28110, USA
Dear Friends,

As we enter the second half of the year, we at the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem are mindful that the 2006 Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles is bearing down upon us. The Feast is always a very special time in Israel since gardens, balconies and patios are adorned with small tabernacles or booths that remind us of God’s care for Israel during the time of the wilderness wanderings after they left Egypt.

Their flimsy nature is the focal point in that by this we are reminded about the true source of life – the God of the Bible – and the fragile nature of our existence. We need God for everything. To place one’s efforts and energies into the pursuit of things and personal gratification is a dangerous game to play, though many do this!

We must rather recognise that we were born to know God, enjoy Him and pursue His interests. Giving ourselves away is the road to receiving eternal satisfaction. No wonder Jesus stood up on the Great Last Day of the Feast of Tabernacles and said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink... and out of his innermost being will flow rivers of living water”. He knew that true happiness means being connected to life’s source, the God of Heaven.

The Feast of Tabernacles celebration this year will express the theme, “The Great Hosanna”. This comes from Psalm 118 and literally means “O God save us”. Our world constantly feeds, panders to, beautifies and admires the outward body but totally neglects the inner, invisible body. As the Israelites came out of Egypt, God taught them that to tabernacle with Him was more important than building a permanent dwelling for the outward body. Life is just too short and fragile to miss its real meaning.

The lessons of the Feast of Tabernacles are clear and challenging. We should all heed them, whether we ascend to Zion or not to celebrate the Feast. For those of you who will be joining us we look forward to greeting you and to your participation in the Feast.

Yours in Jesus,

Malcolm Hedding
A Milestone in Aliyah

ICEJ nears threshold of 100,000 Jews helped home

BY DAVID PARSONS

In the past 120 years, well over 2.5 million Jews have returned to the Land of Israel from all over the world – from the north, south, east and west – in literal fulfilment of God’s promises. Many were fleeing pogroms and persecution, like the early Zionist pioneers from tsarist Russia or the 800,000 Middle Eastern Jews forced out of Arab countries after Israel’s re-birth in 1948. Others came after surviving outright wars and extermination attempts, like the remnant of 250,000 European Jews who limped home in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

In more recent times, since the collapse of communism in 1989, over one million Russian-speaking Jews have come in a massive Aliyah from the former Soviet Union. From the start, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has

“Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east, and gather you from the west; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth.” Isaiah 43:5-6

ICEJ Routes of Aliyah

Established Routes

1. St. Petersburg/Helsinki
2. Kaliningrad - Warsaw
3. Ukraine
4. Budapest
5. Central Asia

New Frontiers

6. Western Aliyah (Germany, Canada, USA)
been deeply involved with this process, working closely with the Jewish Agency, and all the while believing that this is the return of the Jews to Zion spoken about in Jeremiah 16:14-15.

In 1990, our German branch was the first to sponsor a full Boeing 747 planeload of Soviet olim. Since then, the ICEJ has funded 54 aliyah flights direct to Israel, bringing home over 15,000 Jews. We have also been involved in extensive “fishing” and transport efforts in the republics that made up the vast Soviet empire.

Totalling all our efforts to date, the ICEJ’s aliyah network has assisted over 95,000 Jews at some point in their journey home over the past 16 years – each and every one with their own remarkable story to tell. That means one out of every ten Jewish newcomers to the land of Israel was helped somewhere along the way by our ministry.

THE ESTABLISHED ROUTES

St. Petersburg/Helsinki – the first route to open for Soviet immigration to Israel in 1989, the ICEJ has transported over 22,000 Jews from northwest Russia to airports in St. Petersburg and Helsinki. This has been primarily the work of Finnish Christians under the direction of ICEJ-Finland national director Dr. Ulla Järvillehto. She teamed up with Lev Mendelevitch and the Jewish Agency to help the first Soviet Jewish family go through Helsinki on March 10, 1990 on their way to Tel Aviv.

Kaliningrad-Warsaw – Around 5,000 Jews from the western FSU have been transported from this Russian enclave in Poland for flights to Israel since the early 1990s, through Warsaw or Helsinki.

The Ukraine – During the 1990’s when ICEJ was the main sponsor of Exobus, over 35,000 Jews were bussed to Kiev and other locations for flights or voyages by ship to Israel.

Budapest – Over 7,000 Jews have been brought in convoys from western Ukraine to Budapest for flights to Israel over the past 15 years, largely through the efforts of ICEJ-Switzerland.

Central Asia – Over 8,000 Jews coming home from Uzbekistan and neighbouring Muslim republics have been assisted by the ICEJ since 1996.

NEW FRONTIERS

Today, new ‘routes’ of aliyah are opening in other parts of the world. Resurgent anti-Semitism in Europe has spurred an upswing in aliyah from France. In addition, economic troubles in Latin American countries like Argentina and Venezuela have forced Jewish communities there to begin trickling home to Israel. In the US and Canada, there are also fresh stirrings among North American Jews to return to their ancient homeland, many for religious reasons.

Another growing source of ‘Western’ aliyah right now is from among the 600-800,000 former Soviet Jews who moved to the USA, Canada, Germany and elsewhere after 1989, rather than to Israel. As many as 300,000 resettled in Germany due to attractive government policies and subsidies meant to rebuild the devastated German Jewish community. Another large community congregated over the past 15 years in New York City. Yet today, many of these Russian-speaking Jews want to go home to Israel.

These are the challenging new frontiers of the Aliyah. And together with your help, we will soon pass the threshold of 100,000 Jews assisted in their journey home to Israel by the Christian Embassy.
Q&A with Michael Utterback

ICEJ Director of Aliyah Operations

How long have you been personally involved in the Aliyah?

In 1988, I founded a special department within my denomination, the Church of God of Cleveland, Tennessee, called Ministry to Israel, to reach out in love to the Jewish people. I was also very involved with the Christian Embassy at the time, and ever since the doors opened for Soviet Jews to leave for Israel the very next year, I’ve had a passionate desire to be involved.

Who is helping with this effort?

The Jewish Agency does the lion’s share of the work, but the ICEJ/MTI team is one of the three largest Christian ministries involved in the Ingathering. The former Soviet Union is just too vast for one organisation to do it all.

Within our network, there are so many people involved, but credit must first go to Dr. Ulla Järvi-lehto and the Finnish branch. They have been involved in all aspects of the Aliyah since March 1990, by sponsoring 14 direct flights, transporting more than 27,000 Jews to Israel via St. Petersburg and Helsinki, and much more. Today, they have fishers operating as far away as the Central Asian republics and are giving financially towards North American aliyah.

ICEJ-Germany was next to jump in, sponsoring our first direct flight in May 1990. They have now financed over 23 of our 54 direct flights to Israel. Currently, the German branch has started giving incentive grants to Russian-speaking Jewish families in Germany wanting to make aliyah.

In 1999, Howard Flower took over the ICEJ office in St. Petersburg and now runs our Russian branch. He’s launched a number of extraordinary efforts, including the Far Distant Cities program to help Jewish families coming from Siberia and all the vast reaches of the old Soviet Union. More recently, he started laying the groundwork for the grants now being offered to Russian Jewish families in the West by several of our national branches, including Norway, Finland, Germany, Canada and the USA. Other branches like ICEJ-Switzerland have also been very faithful in supporting and participating in our aliyah efforts.

What exactly do you do to assist Jews going to Israel?

The work in Russia is very broad and diverse. We now have a whole network of over one hundred native, born-again Russian Christians who serve as ‘fishermen’ trying to find Jewish families and assist them in making aliyah. We provide buses and other means of transport to the airports. Or we help them with travelling expenses, advice on documenting their Jewish-ness, passport expenses, and money for food and clothing. We also have assisted invalids with medical care and ambulance service to the airport. We help fund Hebrew lan-
language classes and computer courses for young Russian Jews readying to make aliyah, plus so much more. In addition, we have provided meals and homecare for elderly Russian Jews who feel they are unable to re-locate and start anew so late in life.

What is the advantage of having native Russian ‘fishers’?

Unlike Western volunteers, they already know the language and culture, and they are used to the extremely cold weather, the long distances and other difficult living conditions. It also reduces our expenses in maintaining the volunteer network.

Why is aliyah increasing in the West?

It’s interesting that we have seen Jews return from the north, east and south as promised in Isaiah 43:5-6, but we have yet to see great numbers returning from the west. This is the last great frontier, especially in France, Germany and North America, which still hold nearly half the world’s Jews. In recent years, there seems to be an unrest stirring that is part spiritual, part economic and partly from anti-Semitism. I like to describe it as the “homing pigeon” spirit that’s beginning to awaken in their hearts. Many Western Jews are starting to embrace the fact that Israel is their true home. Currently, we are in the midst of sponsoring a group of 300 Bukharan Jews from Uzbekistan who resorted in New York to now reach Israel.

What are you doing once the immigrants arrive in Israel?

For over 15 years now, the Embassy has been involved in many ways in what’s known as “absorption” – helping newcomers get settled in the land. We try to provide things not covered in the government’s ‘basket’ of assistance, such as schoolbooks for children, dental care, eyeglasses, and many other needs. In another case, we’ve paid tuition for study programs that, for example, a doctor might need to get licensed to practice in Israel. Quite often, we’ll help families find permanent housing and buy them appliances they can’t afford. This work is done through the ICEJ’s social assistance department, as well as the Jerusalem Support Center, a joint project of the Embassy and Ministry to Israel, which is managed by my wife, Gina Utterback.

Why should Christians be involved in the Aliyah?

The return of the Jewish people to Israel and Christian involvement is the greatest prophetic sign of the last days. In Isaiah 49:22, God says, “I will beckon to the Gentiles...and they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their shoulders”. Here we see that Gentiles have a prophetic role in this return. Think about it. It won’t be the Muslims who will bring them home, neither the Buddhists or the Hindus or the unbelieving secular world. So whom else would God be talking about in this scripture but us Christians?

1) ICEJ-Canada national director Donna Holbrook (left) presents a $500 incentive grant to Julia Kogan, a Russian-speaking Jew now headed for Israel from Canada.

2) Anticipation is written on the faces of Soviet Jews just moments before this ICEJ-sponsored flight lands at Ben-Gurion airport, 1995.

3) Michael Utterback carries a handicapped Jewish woman from an ICEJ-sponsored bus on her way to Israel, 1995.

4) Hava Usgalia and her son, who made aliyah from Peru last December, recently took delivery of a new oven provided through the Jerusalem Support Center.
Covering 2000 miles in two weeks, ICEJ Executive Director Malcolm Hedding and Music Director Chuck King travelled the length and breadth of the United Kingdom on a daily speaking tour this May. Their journey took them in the footsteps of great revivalists, from Northern Ireland to Scotland to England and Wales, from village tents to city halls, preparing the way for the UK-leg of The Covenant’s six-week European summer tour. We share excerpts from Malcolm’s diary.

17-21 May - Belfast, N. Ireland: Despite all its recent troubles, Northern Ireland has seen remarkable visitations from heaven, including the great 20th century revival led by George Jeffreys, who left a deposit of biblical truth on Israel that can be built upon. We find open hearts in the ‘Emerald Isle’, ministering at the Belfast Synagogue and three churches in three days. Our Irish branch is led by a strong team around him. The Covenant is now set for performances in Dublin and Belfast.

22 May - Croydon, England: A quick flight across the Irish Sea, we’re staying just south of London with Nigel and Maria Freeman, whose commitment to Israel is an inspiration. At the evening meeting, Chuck’s singing enjoyed a great anointing and the Word was received with joy.

23 May - Worthing, England: Met up with our good friend and ICEJ-UK Board member, Graham Jeffreys. His encouragement and friendship are a blessing, as is his dedication to the upcoming production of The Covenant here. We enjoyed good fellowship at the New Life Church where Graham pastors.

24 May - Gardenstown, Scotland: After journeying the length of the UK, we were overwhelmed at the reception from Rev. Donald Martin and his community in this quaint village overlooking the sea. The church is full, meaning much of the village are part of God’s Kingdom.

25 May - Aberdeen, Scotland: Fifty miles south, we met up with Duncan Macaskill who directs the School of Hebraic Christian Studies. As a result of the ‘ministers and leaders’ session he organised this morning, a regular ICEJ prayer meeting was established.

26 May - Gateshead, England: Journeying from Scotland to Wales, we stop in northeast England, where we are graciously hosted in Gateshead, near Sunderland, for a vibrant time of preaching and worship.

27 May - Porthmadoc, Wales: After a long, 300-mile drive, we arrive on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park in North Wales, to a country farm belonging to John and Carole Hawkwood. They’ve pitched a tent on their land and invited all the locals to come hear about Israel. There’s a real desire to receive God’s Word.

28 May - Manchester, England: Back into England and its third largest city for a ‘town hall’ meeting with the local Zionist Council and the Christian community. Entitled ‘In Celebration of Jerusalem’, the evening also featured Dan Shaham from the Israeli Embassy in London and served to strengthen ties between the city’s sizeable Jewish community and British Christians.

30 May - Southampton, England: The tour concluded at the Millbrook Christian Centre in Southampton - the largest city on the English Channel. The evening meeting was held under the pastoral oversight of Mark and Ann Starbuck.

31 May - Heathrow Airport: We leave for Israel exhausted but thankful to our many hosts throughout the journey - particularly ICEJ-UK national director Graham Field and board members David Elms, Michael Young and Wendy Hogarth. We are excited about the arrival of The Covenant tour in late June and the critical message it brings.
On the first day of the FIFA World Cup soccer tournament in Germany in June, the ICEJ joined forces with concerned Christians across Europe to ensure that Holocaust-denying Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would not be allowed to attend to cheer on his national team.

“The Iranian president, like Hitler, employs the rhetoric of genocide and is busily arming himself with the weapons to carry it out,” said Tomas Sandell from the European Coalition for Israel at the launch of a new Brussels-based campaign website www.learnfromhistory.eu.

The site displays a provocative advertisement, comparing the Iranian leader to Hitler, that was designed in Jerusalem by the ICEJ Media team and seen by nearly half a million German newspaper readers on the eve of Iran’s Group D qualifier against Portugal in Frankfurt on June 17.

“In the 1930s there was no Internet and there was no European wide network of pro-Israel Christians,” added ICEJ Executive Director Malcolm Hedding. “We won’t stand silent in the face of another Hitler. Let’s show the world that we have learnt from history!”

Funding for Peace

Addressing Europe’s Funding Dilemma

“The European Union has to take full responsibility for allowing corruption and mismanagement of European funds in the Palestinian Authority and for creating an environment where terrorist groups like Hamas can thrive and win an election.”

This was the message that ICEJ International Director Dr Jürgen Bühler delivered to a packed European Parliament hall in Brussels in May, directly addressing dozens of parliamentarians, diplomats and officials on how the EU should re-direct aid to the Palestinian people while bypassing the terror-tainted leadership of Hamas.

Bühler laid out clear guidelines for a reform of the Palestinian society itself, based on the principles of financial transparency, accountability, the promotion of human rights and zero-tolerance of terror.

Europe Day, Jerusalem

Takkula: ‘The same forces that hate Israel, hate us too’

Speaking at the ICEJ’s international headquarters in Jerusalem in May, European Parliament Member Hannu Takkula of Finland announced, “The same forces that hate Israel, also hate Europe,” and added that Europe must remain true to its Judeo-Christian roots by supporting Israel.

Takkula conceded that not everyone in the European Parliament shared his enthusiasm about Israel’s capital, noting the absence of any European embassy in Jerusalem.

“One would have thought that events of the Second World War would have taught us lessons for centuries,” the Finnish representative added.

The ECI’s second annual ‘Europe Day’ reception at the ICEJ in early May attracted a number of Knesset members, foreign ambassadors, Israeli officials and representatives of the Christian community.
The Covenant in L.A.

Revival Returns to the Azusa Street Stage
SIX DAYS in April: A cast and crew of 60; two new scenes; a completely re-mastered musical score; only four rehearsals and six full-length shows - The Covenant left an indelible mark on thousands during its Los Angeles premiere.

Performing at the very site of the Azusa Street Mission exactly 100 years after revival broke out there, co-writers Robert and Elizabeth Muren introduced a powerful new scene depicting the coming of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts and skilfully connecting it with the birth of the modern Pentecostal movement in 1906.

With anointed guest performances by veteran Hollywood actor Sy Richardson as William Seymour and Dorothy Bedford as Seymour’s wife - the Azusa Street Scene left hundreds in tears, some on their knees, some on their feet, as the Japanese American Theater echoed with the chorus, ‘The Comforter has Come,’ the anthem of those world-changing revival days.

On the road again, The Covenant has now embarked on an ambitious 21-city European summer tour with premiere performances in Dublin, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna.

For the second consecutive year, the core cast and crew will also travel extensively through central Europe, giving the ICEJ an unprecedented opportunity to bring the message of God’s faithfulness to His people in places once-dominated by the Nazi regime.

For more information on tour dates and ways you can financially support The Covenant in Europe, visit our website: www.icej.org.
The ICEJ’s Grafted department hosted its second annual “Hands On Summer Tour” in June, bringing some 50 young adults from around the world, most of whom had never been to Israel. Ranging from 17 to 30 years old, the group was here not merely for an educational experience – although it certainly was that. The focus instead was to serve the people of the land with a selfless love.

The first couple of days were filled with team building activities and touring. We enjoyed careening through the desert in jeeps, riding camels, and floating in the Dead Sea. We watched the sun set over the Sea of Galilee, the perfect setting for personal times of ministry and worship. Some were baptized in the Jordan River. Any one of these experiences would have been enough, but this was a tour of more than enough – which became clear when we began the projects phase of the 12-day itinerary.

First up was the Hadassah-Neurim youth village, a special school for Israeli youth-at-risk. Our group poured onto the campus and scattered, like ants at a picnic, to our various work assignments. In five hours, the roadways were swept, the cafeteria and kitchen were transformed, and several gardens were landscaped. The day ended with a traditional Israeli barbeque with some of the 250 on-campus Jewish residents – many of whom had never even met a Christian before. “Your energies and your friendly personalities made you very special to all of us,” the director assured us afterwards.

Many other unforgettable moments followed. We celebrated Shabbat with elderly Alzheimer’s patients, including a Holocaust survivor who tearfully told us of the healing we brought to her heart. There was a powerful presence of God while visiting and praying with an Ethiopian Jewish congregation. We brought school materials, baby supplies, and house hold items to bless this often struggling part of Israeli society.

While Grafted stands with God’s covenant promises for Israel, we are also committed to God’s redemptive purposes for all peoples, including the Arabs. Everyone on tour filed through the narrow, crowded streets of the Christian Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem with arms full of costumes, candy, face paint, balloons and all the stuff needed for a fast-paced children’s street outreach. The group learned songs in Arabic, shared the Gospel through a translator, and received a very warm response.

The most challenging outreach involved cleaning homes for the elderly. One team cleaned the home of the oldest Arab Christian in the Old City, a 102 year-old man with one leg who is permanently bed ridden and heavily dependent upon outside help.

“Nothing could have prepared us for what we were required to do”, said Shannon McMillan of Australia. “The bed linen hadn’t been changed in weeks, soiled clothes were piled on the floor. Droppings were everywhere from the litter of kittens that share his cramped one-room house.”

What compelled Shannon to work in these conditions? “The verse in Mathew 25”, he answers easily. “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Educating ambassadors for Israel is also a vital component of Grafted. Lectures covering current events, God’s covenants with Israel, and the threat of Islam, equipped the group to go back to their respective nations with a more confident voice.

“My understanding of God’s plan for, and ways of working with the people in this part of the world deepens each time I go back—both with Jews and Arabs,” said Daniel Osborn of the UK.
“The Bible says the greatest among us is the one who serves. This group came not only to paint rooms, but to be a voice of God’s comfort, hope and love to His people”, said Grafted coordinator Liesl Hedding. During a visit to the Garden Tomb, Liesl noticed a scripture written on a mosaic plaque: The Lord Jesus said; ‘It is more blessed to give, than to receive’.

“How true and how profound that young adults coming to serve Israel, can reach the end of the tour feeling more blessed than if we had been the ones who received”, said Liesl. “That is the essence and truly the greatest blessing of our summer hands on tours”.

Cynical, indifferent, egotistical – these are common descriptions of the rising generation. But there are powerful exceptions. This group of young adults sacrificially gave of their energy, time and talents to serve God here in Israel. They came to open their hearts with mercy and grace and to see what Jesus might make of them. They came to follow in the footsteps of our Messiah – not only through the Galilee and into Jerusalem, but through their servant-hood and into human hearts.

Rami from Finland summed it up: “You have really showed me the meaning of serving.”

---

**Young Adults Tour 2006**

**Feast of Tabernacles Celebration**

"The Great Hosanna"October 4th-14th

**Dates:** 4th-14th October 2006  
**Ages:** 18-30  
**Land Price:** US$ 860.00

Join Grafted at the 2006 Feast, as we believe

- God desires to ignite a fiery passion in each of us for His purposes in these days
- God invites us to explore the land of the Bible - His promised land
- God calls us up to Jerusalem with clean hands and a pure heart to worship the Lord of Hosts

Unite with young adults from around the world, and let it be known far-and-wide there is a thunder in the Land, the shouts of the righteous ones coming to worship their King in Jerusalem.

For more information and online registration go to:  
www.grafted.org
Crouching down to toss rocks onto a mounting pile in the desert wilderness of Ein Gedi, tour members spoke of the burdens that were symbolised in every stone that was laid down. With eyes full of tears, a mother was able to let go of a life of bitterness towards her daughter, while a young man preparing for seminary yielded his anger to God.

There was nothing dry about this desert tour.

ICEJ music director Chuck King has always encouraged believers to come worship in the Holy Land, but some time ago his vision began to expand.

“I wanted to create a place of worship and rest for ministers and church leaders who were tired and needed encouragement.”

After sharing his vision with internationally known worship leader and childhood friend Dennis Jernigan, the ICEJ’s annual Streams in the Desert tour was born last summer.

On the second such tour in June, 26 participants began a weeklong journey through Israel by traversing the heart of the Judean desert. After criss-crossing the barren hills in jeeps, exploring the Dead Sea and climbing Masada, the group fell on their knees before the Lord and experienced the “streams” they had come for.

Chuck and Dennis led the tour in hours of intimate worship, ministering through song as God mended broken hearts and renewed visions during the group’s three-day stay at Kibbutz Ein Gedi. The significance of the location was not lost on the group, as their voices echoed off the same mountains where the beloved Psalmist David sought refuge three thousand years ago.

When Chuck first approached Dennis about co-leading a desert worship experience in Israel, Dennis’ dream of visiting the Holy Land finally came true. After years of little contact, the two were at long last able to worship together as they had as teenagers in Chuck’s garage back in Oklahoma.

Inspired by his encounter with the land, Dennis returned home with the desire to publish a book about his visit to Israel. Chuck soon became involved in the project, and together they wrote A Worshippers’ Guide to the Holy Land. In the newly published devotional, Chuck offers insights on his intimate relationship with the
I N S I D E T H E E M B A S S Y

BOOK AND CD NOW AVAILABLE!

A WORSHIPPER’S GUIDE TO THE HOLY LAND

The ministries of Dennis Jernigan and Chuck King are reunited on the soil of Israel in this 280 page devotional book with a compilation CD of original music, including three duets with Chuck and Dennis.

Their journey is chronicled in this inspiring collection of devotionals based on Dennis’ journal during his first visit to Israel, and insights from Chuck’s years of living in the Land. This will be a blessing to your daily devotional life, as it brings you steps closer to this land he has lived in for ten years, while Dennis journals his experience as a first-time pilgrim falling in love with Israel. The book comes with a worship CD of songs from that initial Streams in the Desert journey.

In the book, Dennis recalls what it must have been like for David to wander through the desert before coming to the Ein Gedi oasis to quench his thirst.

“It was here that I began to reinterpret what it meant to thirst after God as a deer thirsts for streams of water.”

Some people on that original Streams retreat came back this year, eager for more. Doug Laramore, a professional trumpet player, brought eight people with him this time. Doug says the worship and fellowship on the tour’s boat ride in the Galilee and communion at the Garden Tomb was almost overwhelming - his group did not want to return home.

“Every time we come to Streams, we leave eager to come back for more. Every experience was powerful. The Lord really uses Dennis and Chuck in their tag-team style of worship,” he says.

Teresa Shupe, from Oklahoma City, believes this is the perfect way to visit Israel. “What better way to tour the Holy Land than with a group of people who are hungry to give worship to our God?” she says. “This was an amazing time – one not to be forgotten.”

Order your book and CD TODAY! resources@icej.org
June 2006 - Israel is firmly in the grip of World Cup fever. In the boys’ room, Avi and Dani* are discussing their homework. Dani’s face lights up when we enter the room and ask him who is going to win. “Brazil”, he replies excitedly. Avi shoots back a knowing glance and then proudly points down to the team shirt he’s sporting on his chest: “Portugal!”

In the hallway, their older brother Yehuda is sitting by the computer watching the match highlights of Spain’s 4-0 rout of Ukraine the previous night. Some of the younger kids crowd around. Even the girls are hooked.

“It’s not a real home”, explains our host Efrat, while showing us around some of the half-dozen ‘family units’ in this far-from-typical children’s home in the town of Ness-Ziona. “But we try to give them all as much as we can”.

For these kids, however, it is home enough.

Older than Israel itself, the Hamifal Educational Children’s Homes were founded in the wake of the great youth aliyah of European Jewish orphans during the closing years of the Second World War. Hamifal literally means enterprise; “a life-workshop”, Efrat explains.

Today the organisation cares for a thousand children on 8 campuses, 146 of them orphaned, the rest removed from their biological parents for their own safety.

Twelve children – six boys, six girls between 5 and 15 years old – live together in each separate unit under the supervision of carefully screened house parents – a couple that offers themselves and their own natural children as a live-in model of stable family life. Each has a heartbreaking story of loss, abuse or neglect. They eat together, learn together, grow together, go to regular schools, fight with their adoptive siblings, and lead otherwise normal lives all under the watchful care of psychologists, social workers, therapists and specialist tutors.

It is an approach that turns the traditional concept of a school-hall orphanage on its head. Natural siblings are brought up together in one home, not split off into different unisex dorms according to age. The result: day-to-day brother-sister relationships and responsive parental role-models who contribute towards a climate of security, acceptance and self-esteem.

“It’s a long term process”, says Moshe Simantov, the burly, smiling children’s home director, (pictured opposite). By the time the state puts children into residential care, every alternative route has been tried and failed.

“There are huge learning gaps [of] two, three, even four years. Emotional burdens and behavioural problems”, he adds. “We work with teachers, biological parents and the community to tailor solutions for each individual child”.

World Cup Dreaming

Reaching the sky with Children at risk

By Michael Hines
Since 1995, Hamifal has established a new framework for teens between 15 and 18 years old, enabling them to stay within the children’s home setting in shared houses of their own until the age of 18, when they join the army. Over two-thirds successfully complete their high school graduation exams, and the rest acquire a technical profession. “We teach our kids that the sky is the limit”, Efrat and Moshe say.

Their remarkable success in building self-worth through a stable family model is one reason why the ICEJ’s Social Assistance Program has maintained close relations with Hamifal for more than 20 years, financially supporting specific projects and raising awareness of the issues facing Israeli children-at-risk. Despite substantial government support that covers food, clothing and health insurance, the children’s homes are left to find the rest themselves; including pressing needs that are not always so obvious at a first glance.

Right at the top of the list is dental work. With few kids having ever seen a dentist before coming to the children’s homes, and fewer still knowing the first thing about basic oral hygiene, the costs are crippling. Many kids suffer severe orthodontic distortions and facial disfigurement. Others cannot chew food properly. Some even struggle to talk.

In response, Hamifal is seeking to provide all their children with a comprehensive package of dental insurance. Thanks to the support of Christian donors around the world, the ICEJ was able to step in and pay for full dental and orthodontic coverage for all the children in one of their eight homes.

Efrat tells the story of Ori – a child in second grade with severe emotional problems, considered retarded by his teachers before coming under their care. Suffering from constant pain and playground harassment due to his blackened teeth, Ori withdrew into fits of anxiety and outbursts of violent behaviour.

Four years later, after a series of extensive dental treatments – he has gained self-confidence in person and speech, studies in a regular class in the 6th grade and is the fastest runner in the school.

Youngsters such as Ori, Moshe concedes, are unlikely to win a Nobel Prize. “But don’t be surprised”, he says with a twinkle in his eye, “if one of them grows up to be the next Pelé!”

The boys grin, but they take in every word he says. If the sky’s the limit, maybe the Brazilian soccer legend may not be so far out of reach after all. (Names changed)
The Feast of Tabernacles

Leviticus 23:39-43

By Malcolm Hedding

Over the years much has been written about the Feast of Tabernacles. It is the Feast of the “Triumph of the Kingdom of God”, as it reminds us that God is our only and ultimate source. Nothing outside of Him is worth living for! Thus we are to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and serve Him with all our might and love. This is the great message of the Feast.

The flimsy booths with their leafy coverings for a roof are therefore reminders of these eternal truths. They also remind us of Who God is. Not only are we to trust Him but to do this we have to have an understanding of His greatness. Scripture presents the God of Heaven as the supreme power in the universe. He must be because He made it! (Hebrews 11:3) However, more than this is the fact that apart from being all powerful, omnipresent and omniscient, He is also perfectly righteous, good and full of mercy and compassion (Exodus 34:5-7). He is a just God and will by no means let the guilty go free. His wrath is a manifestation of His love! This is so because it constitutes His holiness breaking out against all that is unholy. This is why atonement or – to put it another way – the cross, is the only means by which to approach Him (Hebrews 9:22; Leviticus 17).

The Israelites of old did not learn the above lessons and truths well as they wandered through the desert, even though they witnessed His mighty acts and miracles. When they spied out the land of promise they became weak-kneed and wilted away like grasshoppers because of the giants that freely roamed the region (Numbers 13:33).

In their eyes the giants were bigger than God! They could just not believe that the God they served was bigger and greater. The lesson of the flimsy booths had escaped them and as a consequence they lost out on the will of God for their lives and roamed the wilderness for forty years!

Are we any different? I suspect not. How many of us have devalued God in our hearts and eyes and have consequently been disconnected from the purpose of God for our lives? And, how many of us are lost in some barren spiritual wilderness because we just cannot trust God with all of our lives? These are sober thoughts indeed.

Paul states in 1 Corinthians 10:5-6 that the experiences of the Israelites in the Wilderness serve as an example to us. So, we have to ask the question, “What led to their unbelief and failure?” His answer is both illuminating and challenging in that he says four things:

**IDOLATRY (1 CORINTHIANS 10:7)**

Idolatry is not necessarily the worship of an image. No, it can be anything that occupies more of our attention than God! Makes one think! Eating, drinking and playing can be idolatrous if they supplant the place that God and God alone in Jesus should occupy in our lives.

**SEXUAL IMMORALITY (1 CORINTHIANS 10:8)**

The scourge of the modern day church! How easily believers forget who God is and indulge in the lust of the flesh. We need a new grasp of the fear of the Lord!

**PROVOCATION (1 CORINTHIANS 10:9)**

Temptation means to “put one to the test”. In short this is rebellion against the will and purpose of God. Today too many believers “sail too close to the rocks of the shore”. They tempt God with behaviour that is not befitting of a believer and thereby dull their spiritual discernment and no longer see God for who He is!

**ARROGANCE (1 CORINTHIANS 10:12)**

Pride in one’s spiritual walk is a very dangerous thing. Our walk with God should be one of contrition and obedience. We know that lurking within us, waiting to strike, is the remnant of our fallen-ness. When we become puffed up this ‘remnant’ strikes, like a snake, because we have forgotten Who God is.

So, as we approach the season of the Feast of Tabernacles and as some of you ascend to Zion, let us embrace the full message of this wonderful Feast. Above all, the Feast of Tabernacles is a Feast of joy. God’s people are and should be a joyful people. No wonder Jesus stood up in Jerusalem at the time of the Feast of Tabernacles and cried out:

“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink... from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:37-38)
Feast of Tabernacles
7th-13th October

The Great Hosanna!
Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous... Psalm 118:15

For many centuries, countless pilgrims have streamed up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles, culminating in the prayers of THE GREAT HOSANNA, recited at the Western Wall. Psalm 118 is our theme of this year’s celebration, the largest annual Christian event in Israel. We join the people of Israel in this joyous festival, lifting our hearts and voices with them to pray:

Hosanna!

O Lord, save us! O Lord, grant us success! Psalm 118: 25

Special Guests
Speakers include Malcolm Hedding, David Pawson, Lance Lambert, Allan Jackson, Jürgen Bühler, Michael Utterback and Mosy Medugba.

Schedule
SATURDAY OCT. 7TH
► Ein Gedi opening ceremonies at sunset

SUNDAY OCT. 8TH
► Evening celebration

MONDAY OCT. 9TH
► Morning seminars
► Evening celebration

TUESDAY OCT. 10TH
► Morning seminars
► Jerusalem march
► Evening celebration

WEDNESDAY OCT. 11TH
► Morning seminars
► Evening celebration

THURSDAY OCT. 12TH
► Morning seminars
► Israeli Night & Closing ceremonies (watch our website for more details)

FRIDAY OCT. 13TH
► Morning Seminars
► Evening Alternatives:
  Succah Celebration at Ramat Rachel
  Classical Concert at Christ Church
  Evening of Ministry at The Pavilion
  Healing Service at the YMCA

For more detailed information and to register online visit our website: www.icej.org

Ron Kenoly
Joining the worship team will be special guest artist Ron Kenoly.
Israelis are accustomed to momentous events and decisions, but much more than usual seems to be hanging in the balance this summer. Israel’s government is considering a unilateral handover of most of the West Bank to the Palestinians, who in turn are teetering on the brink of civil war. Meanwhile, international efforts to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons have reached a critical juncture, and the outcome could spell war or peace on a global scale.

**Olment Pitches Realignment**

Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert journeyed to Washington in late May to sell US President George W. Bush on ‘realignment’ – the new name of his ambitious plan for vacating most of Judea/Samaria and setting Israel’s final borders by 2010, with or without the Palestinians. He followed that up with visits to Cairo, Amman, London and Paris to market the plan to other key leaders.

But so far no one is buying, as Olmert’s hosts all stressed that they prefer a negotiated settlement. Ironically, some Arab rulers are actually insisting Israel not retreat right now from ‘Palestinian lands’, lest the ensuing chaos bolster Islamic radicals and threaten their regimes.

Olmert promised to give talks a chance with Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas, but he has little hope for progress. Before long, he contends, Israel will likely have to take matters into its own hands. This could entail uprooting dozens of isolated Jewish settlements and abandoning up to 90% of the West Bank. But polls show the plan now lacks majority support at home, after the US refused to recognise any borders set unilaterally or to help pay the huge bill for realignment.

Ultimately, Olmert may have to be content with a less sweeping version of realignment, coordinated with both Abbas and the settler movement. Otherwise, setting the West Bank adrift in its present condition is an instant formula for a failed terror state.

**Prisoners to the Rescue**

On the Palestinian side, Abbas and his Fatah faction have been locked in a power struggle with Hamas ever since the Islamic group won PA parliamentary elections in January. In recent weeks, armed militias from the rival camps have engaged in daily street battles and tit-for-tat ambushes that have left dozens dead.

On the precipice of civil war and cut off from their lifeline of foreign aid, the Palestinians negotiated over a “national reconciliation accord” drawn up by prisoners in an Israeli jail. The so-called
‘prisoners’ document’ was drafted primarily to keep Fatah and Hamas from sliding into open conflict, although much of the media have erroneously labelled it a ‘peace plan’.

Abbas quickly saw the document as a way to demonstrate that the people are with him. Palestinians hold their prisoners in Israeli jails in high esteem and polls show the plan has broad support. Meanwhile, the international boycott of Hamas has eroded its standing, as the group has been unable to deliver pay checks to PA employees and security on the streets.

Recently, Abbas announced a public referendum on the prisoners’ document to be held on July 26. Hamas publicly rejected the referendum as a blatant attempt to overturn its electoral victory, while also quietly submitting changes to the 14-point plan. The two sides hammered out a mutually agreed version that in substance resembles the PLO’s 1974 Phased Plan, which called for establishing a state on any part of the homeland, to be used as a springboard for liberating all of ‘Palestine’. The ‘sacred’ right of return for Palestinian refugees is preserved, as is the “right to resist… by any means”, historically defined to include suicide bombings and other acts of mass murder. The unity accord however, has been sidelined by a Hamas attack on an IDF base and kidnapping of an Israeli soldier. The hostage crisis has drawn IDF troops back into Gaza as we go to press.

**SHOWDOWN WITH IRAN**

Hamas has been propped up in recent months by Iran, which is enmeshed in a high stakes diplomatic game with the UN Security Council over its renegade nuclear program. The US and EU-3 (France, Germany and the UK) suspect Tehran of pursuing atomic weapons, and proposed a tough resolution authorising sanctions against Iran if it continues enriching uranium. But Russia and China threatened to veto the measure.

To break the impasse, Moscow and Beijing were persuaded to join in presenting Tehran with a package of incentives and punishments to test its intentions one last time. Washington’s effort to exhaust diplomatic channels included offering direct talks with Iran, access to American nuclear technology and lifting decades of US sanctions, all in exchange for Tehran agreeing to suspend enrichment just during negotiations. If rejected in ‘bad faith’, Russia and China would be expected to abstain in a Security Council vote on sanctions.

Tehran has been dragging out its response, while insisting on its ‘natural’ right to nuclear power. The diplomatic gambit could take months to play out, but may be the West’s last chance to avert a major confrontation with the Islamic world. Time is short, as Western intelligence estimates put Iran 2-to-4 years away from having the domestic capacity to build an atomic bomb.

Iran’s nuclear facilities are spread among some 70 sites across the country, many deep underground, reducing their vulnerability to pre-emptive strikes. Iranian leaders have warned that in the event of attack, they will target Israel and disrupt oil shipments in the Persian Gulf – both credible threats.

Over the years, Iran has developed ‘threat enhancers’ like the medium-range Shahab III ballistic missile, capable of striking Israel. Tehran has also supplied Hizb’Allah in Lebanon with up to 15,000 rockets and missiles, including recent shipments of Zelzal rockets that can strike as far south as Be’ersheva.

The Ayatollahs could also enflame Shi’ites against coalition forces in neighbouring Iraq, and activate terrorist sleeper cells in the West.

Finally, Iran has the ability to interfere with shipping in the narrow Strait of Hormuz, through which one-quarter of the world’s oil supply passes. Such a move could stagger world financial markets, arouse an Islamic confrontation with the West, and even draw Russia and China into the fray.

**It is truly the defining drama of our day.**

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*Iranian test of its Shahab III missile, August 2004*
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