“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”
Matthew 7:11
Dear Friends,

The Middle East region is becoming more problematic with every passing day. Part of the problem is the inability of the West to come to terms with the threat of radical Islam. Indeed Western halls of government have been in self-denial in terms of the very real threat that Islamic terrorism poses to them.

As a number of recent television programmes made undercover in the United Kingdom have revealed, even the so-called ‘moderate’ Muslims are, behind closed doors, calling for violent jihad against their host countries and approving of it elsewhere.

Israel has been at the forefront of this conflict for years. The West was duped by the likes of Yasser Arafat, and through Oslo and the Road Map initiatives has pressurized Israel to make agreements with ‘partners’ who were always bent on her total destruction. Though organisations like ours and many others frequently warned about this duplicity, the ‘peaceniks’ marched on undeterred. The result was and is carnage, terror, violence and bloodletting. Israelis have paid a high price indeed for the delusions of unprincipled politicians!

Even when Israel withdrew from Gaza the terror never came to an end. Hardly had the Jewish people left the region when Kassam rockets began to rain down on the southern towns and villages of Israel. They continue to fall to this day!

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon, with his radical Islamic militia Hizb’Allah, attacked Israel in August of last year, all the time being armed, equipped and rearmed by Iran via Syria. But still the West lives in denial, twisting and turning like a snake as it endeavours to ignore the obvious, i.e. Islamic fascism is at war with the West!

Now Hamas together with Fatah are hatching another plan, all designed to loosen the financial pockets of the West without really having to turn away from and dismantle their terrorist agenda. The West will no doubt buy it – again!

The Bible all the while warns that days will come when men will again say, “Peace, peace” but there is no peace! The truth is, peace at any price is no peace at all!

We could go on and on, referring to Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and others but the point is made, I believe. The bottom line is that Israel needs friends. The Christians are her true friends and in recent years have proved it over and over again. Above all, Israel needs your constant intercession and your visibility. That is, if you can by the grace of God, attend this year’s Feast it would speak volumes to Israelis. God knows our times and seasons and this could be your time to ascend to Zion to help us blow an urgent but blessed trumpet.

We value your support, love and encouragement and trust that, as ever, your eyes will be upon our great King Who after all controls everything.

Yours in Jesus,

Malcolm Hedding
Executive Director
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem
In today’s church it’s rare to hear powerful preaching on sin, repentance, and the death of Christ creating the impression that Jesus died for our problems and not our sins...

Scripture warns of a time when there will be a great falling away from the Christian faith (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Jesus himself declared that the “love of many will grow cold…” and He also said, “When the Son of Man comes will He really find faith on the earth” (Matthew 24:32-33; Luke 18:8).

I believe that we are living in these times. A recent edition of Newsweek highlights the fact that churches across Europe are being turned into discos, restaurants, entertainment halls, offices and even homes. The figure they give is quite staggering in that thousands of church buildings are suffering this fate. Indeed Europe is post-Christian!

To make matters worse, in many Evangelical churches today one never hears powerful preaching on sin, repentance and the death of Christ. On the contrary, one often comes away with the feeling that Jesus died for our problems and not our sins. Failure to properly define these biblical concepts is producing a man-centered gospel that fails to go to the root of the problem.

Sin is now depression, loneliness, debt, illness and troubles, etc. whereas it is in fact rebellion against the character of God, deserving nothing short of the wrath of God (Romans 3:16). The Ten Commandments reflect the righteous demands of God’s character and our failure to meet them all the time constitutes us as sinners and enemies of God (Romans 3:20; Romans 5:6-11).

Repentance is godly sorrow that confesses our rebellion against God and genuinely asks for forgiveness on the grounds of Jesus’ death (2 Corinthians 7:10). This death is a once-for-all propitiation (Romans 3:21-26) for our sins in that He endured the anger of God on our behalf and thus fully satisfied the demands of God’s character on our behalf (Romans 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11).

As regards this wrath or anger of God, it is a manifestation of God’s holy love! God is only love and nothing more or less. His love is also just and righteous and therefore it judges sin and this righteous loving judgment gives Him the right in the end to judge the world by Jesus Christ. A God Who makes provision for the world’s sin in the death of His son has the right to judge a world that rejects this gift (Acts 17:30-31).

Sadly, the truths above are infrequently laid out before congregations, perhaps because the preachers think that all of this is too negative. After all people come to church to be blessed, uplifted and edified! The truth is, nothing edifies and brings comfort like the “awful medicine” that heals. The only thing that can truly heal the sinner is true repentance based on a recognition of our rebellion against God and thankfulness for His grace extended toward us in the death of Jesus (Titus 2:11-15).

A ‘bloodless’ Christianity is producing a lukewarm, failure-ridden church in the world that is far from the heart of God. We must, once again, rediscover the sermons of great preachers who once changed their world dramatically and populated heaven with millions of blood-bought children.

Does all this sound radical, too radical? It should.

We must return to biblical preaching and we must, like the Apostle Paul, make the death of Jesus the platform upon which we stand constantly. He said, “I determined to know nothing among you save Christ and Him crucified” (1 Corinthians 1:17-18; 2-2).

May God help us to know, believe and preach essential truth.
ICEJ & Yad Vashem

Joining forces for Holocaust Remembrance

By Malcolm Hedding

At the end of last year the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem and Yad Vashem entered into a partnership agreement that essentially sets up a Christian Desk at Yad Vashem. One may well ask, “Why such an initiative and what prompted it?” The answer is simple and disturbing.

Simple because Yad Vashem is visited annually by hundreds of thousands of Christians who love Israel and feel overwhelmingly shocked by the events of the Holocaust. They want to make a difference, and by supporting Yad Vashem and its mission to maintain the memory of the victims of the Holocaust they are empowered to do so.

Disturbing because in many parts of the world, as demonstrated by the recent conference in Teheran, denying the Holocaust is becoming more of a reality. This trend not only dishonours the memory of the six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazi killing machine. But it also by implication vilifies the Jews as liars and lays again the awful and evil seeds of anti-Semitism.

A Christian desk at Yad Vashem will reach out to the Christian world, educate it and enable it to learn the eternal lessons that will ensure that nothing like this will ever happen again.

The nominated Director of the Christian Desk at Yad Vashem is Rev. Sam Clarke. Sam is an Evangelical Episcopalian Minister from the United States of America. He has served in Florida and Washington DC and has always had a deep and abiding love for Israel. He and his family actually come from Tennessee where, in the town of Franklin, they have a family home.

Sam will not only seek to involve Christians in the lessons to be gleaned from the Holocaust but he will also raise money for Yad Vashem. By undergirding the future of Yad Vashem we can protect generations to come from the scourge of anti-Semitism and thereby create a safer world.

See Also: Viewpoint - “A State of Denial” pp 18-20
Eighteen months after the Israeli security forces began the traumatic process of evicting thousands of Jewish residents of Gaza and northern Samaria from their homes in August 2005, the wounds have yet to heal.

Men and women who dedicated their lives to farm the barren sand dunes of the southern Gaza Strip – known as the ‘accursed land’ by their Arab neighbors when they built the first settlements there a generation ago – turned them into some of the most prosperous farming communities in the Middle East.

Today, many of those same farmers who used to send their high quality fruit, and vegetable produce for export across Europe are unemployed and living in temporary housing, with no land to work.

In the year and a half since the pullout took place, the ICEJ has continued to seek ways to assist these families and their children to adjust to life after ‘disengagement’.

Almost 1,700 Jewish families were uprooted from the Gaza Strip, with massive social consequences for all those forcibly removed from their homes. Many of the families that were pulled out of the area before it was handed over to Palestinian Authority control had been there for more than two decades, having originally been sent by the government to settle the land in the late 1970’s.

Even as the emotionally-charged disengagement was taking place, the ICEJ launched a campaign to aid the evicted Israeli families, focusing specifically on helping the displaced and traumatized children adjust to their new surroundings. More than $200,000 in donations has been collected from Christians worldwide for this purpose.

In early February, ICEJ Executive Director Malcolm Hedding was invited to dedicate a playground in the Israeli refugee city of Nitzan, just one of several projects that have been funded by the Embassy’s Social Assistance Program as a result of that campaign.

According to Dror Vanunu, International Coordinator for the Friends of Gush Katif Committee, there are currently about 500 evacuated families crowded into Nitzan’s temporary housing, which is located just a short distance from the Mediterranean Sea between the coastal cities of Ashdod and Ashkelon.

The Israeli government estimates that permanent homes will not be ready for at least another two years-more than two years behind schedule-and in the meantime, the children have been left without basic recreational outlets.

Made possible by a $30,000 donation from the ICEJ together with $20,000 from the Jewish Federation of Houston, Texas, “this playground is bringing a lot of joy and happiness to the 1,200 children in Nitzan,” Vanunu said.

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In addition the ICEJ has also provided funding for the local cultural center in Nitzan, which gives music, art, and language lessons to children and adults, and is continuing to support the communities’ efforts to rebuild their once expansive library. Before the February 1st ribbon cutting ceremony at the Nitzan playground Malcolm Hedding was able to present a cheque for almost $3,500 to the library.

“All of the families that were pulled out of the area before it was handed over to Palestinian Authority control had been there for more than two decades, having originally been sent by the government to settle the land in the late 1970’s.”

“We are thankful for this opportunity to invest in the most important thing in life – our children – and proud to stand with this community. Your children are the real treasure of Israel.”

“These courageous children have already experienced much trauma in their young lives and the ICEJ wants to bring them joy, and a place to just be kids again.”

Rev. Malcolm Hedding
The compelling ICEJ-sponsored musical drama, *The Covenant*, is returning to North America this spring for four weeks of performances across the southern USA and Canada. Recounting the miraculous story of the People of Israel from the call of Abraham to the re-birth of the modern State, *The Covenant* offers a powerful glimpse of the faithfulness of God to His people and promises throughout history.

Following shows in seven US cities from Miami, FL to Tulsa, OK the 2007 Spring Tour is poised to take *The Covenant* to Canada for the first time, where it will be broadcast nationwide to participating theatres, churches and synagogues from the main stage of the prestigious Toronto Center for the Arts on the evening of May 13.

**Performances**
- Miami, FL: April 17-18
- Melbourne, FL: April 21-22
- Charlotte, NC: April 26
- Murfreesboro, TN: April 29
- Austin, TX: May 2-3
- Houston, TX: May 6-7
- Tulsa, OK: May 9

**Performances and Simulcast**
- Toronto, Canada: May 13

*Live broadcast to Cineplex Theatres, Churches and Synagogues across Canada*

For latest schedule updates, venue and ticketing information go to:

[www.icejusa.org](http://www.icejusa.org)  [www.icejcanada.org](http://www.icejcanada.org)
God in Africa

No longer the prime target of world missions - Africans are setting the world alight with their zeal for God, His church... and Israel

By Jürgen Bühler

God is moving in Africa today! This is evident in the work of evangelists like Reinhard Bonnke, whose rallies attract unprecedented numbers and in places like Lagos, Nigeria, where Africa’s largest church building hosts more than 50,000 worshippers every Sunday. Not long ago, one local denomination set a goal of planting a church on every street corner in Nigeria, and each major city is now graced with a church on every street corner in one local denomination set a goal of planting a church on every street corner in Nigeria, and each major city is now graced with a church.

This dedication and expectancy is not just the Sunday sermon being preached in Africa today, but the very real experience of the church. Many are being healed of illness and delivered from demons. The dead are being raised. The theological argument over whether signs and wonders can still be expected today is virtually nonexistent in Africa. Signs and wonders are happening and many are being saved.

God’s Fire in the Oilfields

This January we found ourselves in the middle of southern Nigeria’s oilfields, experiencing the powerful move of God that is spreading across the entire country. It was our great privilege to attend the Global Prayerquake Conference in Port Harcourt along with more than 10,000 other pastors and leaders from all around Africa, as organized by the ICEJ’s Nigerian National Director, Rev. Mosy Madugba. The challenging messages delivered in Port Harcourt and the intensive times of prayer were characterized by an overwhelming sense of dedication and expectancy that God would move mightily among His people.

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Love for Zion

Setting apart Africa’s new and dynamic church movement is their distinctive love for Israel. In Nigeria alone several large prayer networks have been founded to intercede for Israel and pray for the peace of Jerusalem. At the 6-day ministers’ conference in Port Harcourt an entire day was dedicated “to honor Israel”. This not only greatly impacted the Israeli Ambassador to Nigeria, but demonstrated as well that Israel has good and warm friends in Africa. The relationship to Israel is very natural for most African Christians, as they recognize that Israel is where their spiritual roots lie,” said Rev. Madugba.

The connection that Rev. Madugba spoke of is also sacrificial in nature. After offerings had already been collected for different projects, the Prayerquake conference delegates decided to bless Israel with their finances. Although the annual Gross Domestic Product in Nigeria is only US $120 per capita, (compared to $44,000 in the US), almost $1,000 was raised for Israel in one offering.

Advancing Africa

While only a few decades ago Africa was considered the primary and even quintessential target for missions work, things have changed dramatically in recent years. While the number of Western missionaries is constantly decreasing, Nigeria is well on the way to implementing its own vibrant missions strategy. When ICEJ Executive Director Rev. Malcolm Hedding and I visited the Prayerquake conference last year, the theme was “Missions Now as Never!”

More than 100 missionaries were sent out from Nigeria at that conference alone, with many heading to Europe and others to the widely unreached and often dangerous Islamic world. Malcolm and I will never forget how those men and women were told not to depend on and wait for the financial support of a missions organization, but to trust fully in the Lord to provide. It is no coincidence that the largest church in Europe is pastored by a Nigerian whose Kiev congregation numbers some 10,000 members. The largest church in Brussels, the symbolic capital city of the European Union - is a black African church with 2,000 members.

Hunger for God’s Presence

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ICEJ co-hosts Ambassador’s farewell

In a keynote address, Rep. Tom Lantos, the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to the US Congress, compared the Christians present to the righteous gentiles who saved Jews during the Holocaust. “We cannot tell you how precious you are to us,” Lantos stated.

“We deeply love and respect you more than you’ll ever know because you represent the finest of civilization.”

Before the dinner, ICEJ USA Director Susan Michael and Executive Director Malcolm Hedding were able to join the Ayalons in their hotel suite to thank them for the warmth of their friendship during their time in Washington and to present a petition containing 11,489 signatures declaring Christian support of Jerusalem as the eternal and undivided capital of the State of Israel.

The petition was prompted by the withdrawal of the last two remaining foreign embassies in the Israeli capital - El Salvador and Costa Rica, during last summer’s Lebanon border war.

“We are proud that the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is located in Jerusalem, representing the millions of Christians from all over the world who stand with Israel,” the petition declared.

ICEJ worldwide
HOMETOWN RALLY
ICEJ Music Director Chuck King performs in front of a hometown crowd at the Oklahoma City ‘Night to Honor Israel’ in January, one of 36 similar events being held across the United States this year by Pastor John Hagee’s new umbrella group, Christians United for Israel.

“Tonight, Christians and Jewish people alike are joined together in oneness, and we’re going to send a message,” the 2,500 capacity crowd was told by event host Gary Bachman, a local attorney, municipal judge and member of the ICEJ’s governing Association. “Together we are going to stand for Israel.”
A State of Denial

The dark agenda behind Iran's Holocaust revision

By David Parsons

M any world leaders expressed dismay at the recent Holocaust denial conference in Tehran. Yet the nature and extent of Iran's hostile campaign to undermine Israel's legitimacy, taken together with its relentless drive to acquire nuclear capabilities, should be setting off much greater alarm bells worldwide. The Islamic regime clearly has ventured beyond traditional forms of Holocaust denial and distortion into what some consider outright 'Holocaust promotion' – deliberately preparing the groundwork for yet another genocidal attempt against the Jewish people.

BEHIND THE RHETORIC

Shortly after his election as Iran's president in June 2005, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad began signalling his apocalyptic intentions, echoing the words of Ayatollah Khomeini that Israel must be "wiped off the map." Before long, he also started issuing repeated denials that the Holocaust ever happened.

The Iranian regime's official campaign to denigrate the Jewish state. Yet the nature and extent of Iran's hostile campaign to undermine Israel's legitimacy, taken together with its relentless drive to acquire nuclear capabilities, should be setting off much greater alarm bells worldwide. The Islamic regime clearly has ventured beyond traditional forms of Holocaust denial and distortion into what some consider outright 'Holocaust promotion' – deliberately preparing the groundwork for yet another genocidal attempt against the Jewish people.

For those unclear about its purpose, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki opened the gathering by stating: "If the official version of the Holocaust is thrown into doubt, then the identity and nature of Israel will be thrown into doubt."

Mottaki added, "And if, during this review, it is proved that the Holocaust was a historical reality, then what is the reason for the Muslim people of the region and the Palestinians having to pay the cost of the 'Nazis' crimes?'"

These comments mirrored Ahmadinejad's remarks one year earlier at a gathering in Mecca of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference:

"Certain European countries insist on saying that Hitler has killed millions of Jews in gas chambers... We do not believe this assertion, but even if it were true, we ask the Europeans: Is the murder of innocent Jews by Hitler the reason for the support of the occupiers of Jerusalem? The Europeans should offer part of their territory, from Germany, Austria or other countries, so that the Jews can install their state there."

According to a new study on Iran's intentions released by Dr. Manfred Gerstenfeld, an expert on anti-Semitism in the post-Holocaust era, Ahmadinejad believes the Shoah is the sole moral justification for Israel's existence, despite the fact that the Zionist movement pre-dates the Nazi genocide by decades. Thus, the Iranian president thinks if he can undermine the veracity of the Holocaust, he can cultivate a popular mindset that would acquire in the elimination of the Jewish state. Gerstenfeld contends that this has gone beyond Holocaust denial and lumped over into "Holocaust promotion."

DESECTING DENIAL

In essence, Holocaust denial is an anti-Semitic conspiracy theory which holds that, for self-serving reasons, the Jewish people have deceived the entire world into believing a colossal tale about their own destruction.

Scholars have broken down the phenomenon into several categories:

1) Holocaust denial – outright assertions that there were no gas chambers and no mass killings of Jews;
2) Holocaust minimisation – claims, for instance, that less than one million Jews died, or that other recent genocides have been just as bad;
3) Holocaust distortion – allegations, for example, that the Jews brought the Shoah down upon themselves;
4) Holocaust manipulation – charges that Zionist leaders actually conspired with the Nazis to begin exterminating European Jewry in order to draw sympathy for establishing a Jewish state in Palestine, and finally
5) Holocaust inversion – accusations that Israelis are today's Nazis and the Palestinians are victims of a new and even worse genocide.

As the horrors of the Holocaust began to emerge in the waning days of World War II, many found it difficult to truly believe that an advanced society like Germany could have committed such atrocities. But the proof was there, not only in the meticulous records kept by German authorities, but also in the form of survivors and other eyewitnesses who could testify first-hand to the stark brutality of the Nazi death camps.

After touring an internment camp near Gotha in western Germany, Allied commander Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote on 15 April 1945 about his own encounter with a room where thirty dead, emaciated Jewish bodies were found stacked on top each other.

"The visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty and bestiality were so overpowering as to leave me a bit sick... [The notoriously macho General] George Patton would not even enter. He said he would get sick if he did so. I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to 'propaganda.'"

Eisenhower's foresight was unfortunately correct, as the "tendency" to cast doubts on the Holocaust did develop, initially in the 1950s in France. Among fascists on the right and communists on the left, charges arose that the gas chambers were used only to de-lice inmates or that the Jews were responsible for their own suffering, since they had caused Germany's financial and political troubles.

But it was the Soviet Union that mastered the genre of Holocaust denial during the Cold War. Suppressing reams of captured German war documents and other hard evidence (which eventually resurfaced after the fall of the Iron Curtain), the Kremlin courted the Arab world to its side by assaulting the legitimacy of the international decision to create Israel, which had aligned with the democratic West.
Muslim minds were already conditioned to viewing Jews as having an inherently evil, conspiratorial nature, due to accounts of the Prophet Muhammad’s own encounters with local Jewish tribes contained in the Koran and hadiths (early traditions). Thus, the Arabs were willing consumers of this new Soviet propaganda. The forged “Protocols of the Elders of Zion” became a best seller in the Middle East, while the “myth” of the Holocaust was popularised.

Egyptian president Gamal Abdul Nasser, for instance, once said he opposed “the lie of the six million”.

Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas completed his doctoral dissertation at a Soviet university years later. It simply became easier to chalk it up to the Jewish people’s mystic ability to deceive the whole world with the Holocaust ‘hoax’.

Coming to power in Iran in 1979, Khomeini preached that Israel was also a bridgehead for the Western assault on the culture and religion of the Middle East, and that the Jews prevented Islam from expanding worldwide. He thus set his country on a collision course with Israel that is being zealously pursued by Ahmadinejad today.

Such ‘findings’ reflect the inability of the Arab world to come to terms with its repeated defeats on the battlefield against tiny Israel. It was inconceivable that the inferior Jews went from near annihilation in Europe to conquering sacred Muslim lands just three short years later. It simply became easier to

 Israelis reckon that the West is in denial to the threat of a nuclear Iran. They hope to wake the world up before it’s too late.

ENOUGH DENIAL TO GO AROUND

Dr. Gerstenfeld, himself a survivor, insists that, “Holocaust denial is offensive, but few respectable people engage in it anymore because they end up looking ignorant. What is far more worrying today is the ‘Holocaust promotion’ coming out of Iran and the world’s tepid response.”

He points out, for instance, that former Iranian president Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani is labelled by many in the Western media as a “pragmatic conservative”, even though he was the first to suggest back in 2002 that acquir- ing an atomic bomb to annihilate Israel could be beneficial for Islam, since Israel’s response would only result in “some damage” to Arab cities.

Many Israelis reckon that the West is largely still in their own state of denial as to the seriousness of the threat posed by a nuclear Iran and its radical brand of Islam. It is a very human trait to react to virtually hopeless situations by sup- pressing the grim truth and believing things are not as bad as they seem. It is a symptom many Israelis succumbed to with regards to the Palestinians until the sobering collapse of the Oslo peace process. They hope to wake up the rest of the world about Iran as well, before it’s too late.

ICEJ & Knesset Allies Caucus

Women’s Summit Tour

13th – 22nd May 2007

Enough denial to go around

■ Visit shared Biblical sites common to Jews and Christians throughout the land of Israel.
■ Dialogue with women from all backgrounds and walks of life, from Knesset members to victims of terror.
■ Discuss the ideas that govern radical Islam, take a closer look at Europe’s response to women in a post-holocaust society and examine the Biblical values that tie Israel to the west.

Join Christian and Jewish women from all walks of life in Jerusalem, the city of God, to become empowered by the application of Biblical values to educate and influence your nation on issues critical to women globally. Travel throughout the land of Israel and discover how Jewish and Christian women can unite to impact the present and future generations.

Highlights Include:

■ Abuse of women
■ Female genital mutilation
■ Trafficking of women
■ Incest
■ Honour killing

Contact ICEJ Women’s Summit Tour at:

Tel +972 (0) 2 5399700 (Israel)
Tel +1 704 283 2833 (USA)
womenssummit@icej.org

ICEJ Women’s Council

P. O. Box 1192 • Jerusalem • 91010 • Israel
Land Price USD 1144* includes 2 day registration fee to Summit

*Subject to change based on minimum 35 persons

Where Jews and Christians Come Together

ICEJ & Knesset Allies Caucus

Women’s Summit Tour

13th – 22nd May 2007

Land Price USD 1144*

Includes 2 day registration fee to Summit

Highlights Include:

■ 10 day tour including a 2 day Christian Allies Caucus Women’s Summit focusing on the hardships facing women worldwide and the solutions that can be found by the application of Judeo-Christian values. The conference will focus on lobbying governments to end:

• Abuse of women
• Female genital mutilation
• Trafficking of women
• Incest
• Honour killing

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*Subject to change based on minimum 35 persons
MK Yuri Shtern

A champion of deepening Jewish-Christian ties

By Malcolm Hedding

Yuri possessed a rare combination of graciousness, honesty, intellect and foresight that uniquely qualified him to be a leader in this new era of warmer relations between Israel and her Christian admirers worldwide.

Despite his protracted battle with cancer, Yuri continued to tirelessly work on Israel’s behalf to strengthen ties with Christians without any thought for himself. His persistence and sacrifice were truly inspiring, as was his ability to identify and address the most daunting challenges of our day.

In our hearts, Yuri will always be remembered as a gentle, selfless champion of the historic deepening of Christian-Jewish relations in our time.

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has been closely acquainted with Dr. Shtern for over two decades, ever since his pioneering days as an activist for the release of Soviet Jewry. Thus we came to appreciate his genuine openness to Christians long before he realised his vision of creating a forum in the Israeli parliament to engage with the Christian world.

In fact, Kollek later was to recall it as “one of the most moving days of my life.”

Looking back, we can appreciate even more the foresight of Teddy Kollek, who valued Christian support before it was acceptable to do so.

Serving the city proudly from 1965 to 1993, Teddy was a mayor for ALL the people, and we shall miss him deeply.

We were deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved friend Dr. Yuri Shtern, Member of Knesset and chairman of the Knesset Christian Allies’ Caucus, who died on 16 January 2007 at age 58.

In our hearts, Yuri will always be remembered as a gentle, selfless champion of the historic deepening of Christian-Jewish relations in our time.

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