Something to Celebrate!

The ‘feel good’ story of Israel’s Anniversary Year

As Israel prepares to mark its 60th Anniversary in May, many are wondering whether the nation will be in the mood to celebrate.

Hamas-led terror militias continue to wage a war of attrition along the Gaza border with increasingly deadly rocket attacks. The large coastal city of Ashkelon is now being targeted, and local residents recently admitted that they were afraid even to step in the shower lest the warning siren sound of incoming missiles.

Recent ceasefire efforts fail to promise lasting calm, and everyone is coming to terms with the need for a mass IDF incursion into Gaza sometime this Spring.

Meantime, the fear of suicide attacks inside Israel returned with a vengeance in March when an Arab gunman from east Jerusalem sprayed hundreds of bullets into a library packed with Jewish teenagers studying Torah at a prominent yeshiva in the capital.

Although the UN Security Council has passed a third round of sanctions against Tehran, they are too narrow in scope to ever deter the radical Islamic regime from its determined path of nuclear confrontation with the Jewish State.

So when I asked one leading Israeli security analyst recently if he could give me one ‘feel good’ story out of Israel lately as the 60th celebrations near, he pointed to the millions of Christians worldwide who are now standing in an unprecedented show of solidarity with his country.

And indeed, it is the love and concern of Christian Zionists that is the best news going for Israel in our time.

The deliberate targeting of the ‘flagship’ seminary of the settlement movement left eight young men dead and most Israelis feeling quite vulnerable again, as Palestinian terrorists found a way around the security barrier circling the West Bank by recruiting Jerusalem Arabs who have open access to the entire country.

Finally, hovering above it all is the sense of a looming showdown with Iran over its quest for nuclear weapons, as diplomatic efforts to rein in its renegade uranium enrichment program are proving too little too late.

“Finally, a generation of Christians are getting their hearts right towards the Jewish people, and Israelis are starting to take notice.”

By David Parsons

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem • Comforting Israel, Educating the Church
Dear Friends,

Last month I was invited to breakfast by the Israeli Embassy to meet two professors from Sapir College in Sderot. These two Israelis shared what it is like teaching in a college suffering multiple daily rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip. The college has 5,000 students who risk their lives to study and whose classes are constantly interrupted by sirens. Each time the ‘code red’ warning sounds they have only 15 seconds to find shelter.

The professors described driving to and from work with their car windows open so they can hear the sound of an approaching rocket. But when they do hear a rocket they are faced with a life-and-death dilemma: to stop the car and jump in the ditch or gun the accelerator and just drive faster. With no way of knowing where the rocket will land there is no way of knowing their safest option. When the stop light turns red, they do not want to stop and feel they are “sitting ducks.” Their impulse is to just keep moving.

They went on to describe in detail the daily struggle of pulling into the college parking lot and hearing the sirens wail knowing that they had no hope of reaching a bomb shelter in time. Faced with such a situation how is anyone supposed to know what to do?

My heart just sank when one week later Ronnie Yechiya, a 47 year old Sapir student and father of four, was hit by a rocket while sitting in his car in the very same parking lot. I assume he heard the sirens, which went off 40 times that day, but he knew he did not have time to make it to the shelter.

The failure of the Israeli government to stop the recent wave of rocket attacks is disheartening. The people of Sderot and the students at Sapir College are losing hope in the government’s commitment to their protection.

But they have renewed hope when there are friends like the ICEJ and Operation Lifeshield seeking to place bomb shelters on their campus and in their community. When we were leaving our breakfast one of the speakers, Prof. Ruth Eitan, took my hand and told me she knew of our work. She simply said she wanted to thank us for all of our support.

So to you I pass along her thanks.

For Zion’s Sake,

Susan Michael
USA Director

The Gaza Rocket War Continues...

Israelis still flee for cover in Sderot & Ashkelon...

The ICEJ continues to help Israelis across the region.

Support our efforts now! www.icejusa.org/sderot
The Book of Essential Living

Ecclesiastes: A Neglected Treasure Chest

By Malcolm Hedding

While the Psalms are often read and enjoyed, the Book of Ecclesiastes is somewhat neglected. One rarely hears preaching from it since its message appears to be a little ‘unspiritual.’ It could also be that some people neglect its pages because it is written by Solomon, who in his latter years appeared to fall away from his earlier commitment to God. Certainly this is the testimony of scripture (1 Kings 16:4).

But what of the book? It is in fact a treasure chest of spiritual wealth, as it majors on the wisdom or common sense we need under God to navigate life’s challenges. In one way, we can call the book of Ecclesiastes “The Book of Essential Living.”

For the Church

“For the Lord your God has given you the land to possess, he will vanquish your enemies, and destroy those who hate you. He will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. There shall be no one left of your enemies when the Lord your God has given you the land to possess, as he has promised you. When the Lord your God has driven out your enemies, you shall come and occupy his good land, which will flow with milk and honey, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you. Be strong, take heart, be bold!” Deuteronomy 7:22-26

Be sure to be thoughtful before you make promises to God in the House of God. God will hold you to these and your days will be determined by your obedience or disobedience to these promises. Also, this passage warns us about hyper spiritual leaders who seek to impress upon the people of God their spirituality by telling of dreams and visions. Here the preacher says that most dreams do not have their origin in God but “through much activity”!

For Leaders

“Dead flies make a perfumer’s oil stink, so a little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor.” Ecclesiastes 10:1

Those who lead the flock of God can so easily destroy their testimony by giving themselves to carnal things, even if in a small way. Positions of power and authority can always go to one’s head and corrupt one. So, the blessing of a precious ointment can be spoiled by a dead fly.

For Life

“Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things. So, remove grief and anger from your heart and put away pain from your body, because childhood and the prime of life are fleeting.” Ecclesiastes 11:9-10

God is not a “kill joy.” He wants us to enjoy life and have fun. Sometimes one can meet Christians who seem to be void of all fun, laughter and good times as if these pursuits were unholy. This is not true. However, just remember that God is watching and therefore all things should be done within the parameters of Godliness.

For Now

This is but a small glimpse of a marvelous book and I sincerely hope that it urges you to explore it more fully. However, be sure to heed its conclusions:

“Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Compared to the Psalms, the Book of Ecclesiastes is somewhat neglected. Is it a little too ‘unspiritual’ for the average Christian or simply hard to understand? ICEJ Executive Director, Rev Malcolm Hedding, argues that it’s time to take a closer look...

By Malcolm Hedding

Compared to the Psalms, the Book of Ecclesiastes is somewhat neglected. Is it a little too ‘unspiritual’ for the average Christian or simply hard to understand? ICEJ Executive Director, Rev Malcolm Hedding, argues that it’s time to take a closer look...
A Night to Remember

*Bible Reference*

“...when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations.”

*Exodus 12:13-14*

*Help Israeli Families Celebrate Their Freedom*

By David Parsons

For the Jewish people, the spring holiday of Pessach, or Passover, is the most important family gathering of the year. The Passover Seder meal is the most widely observed Jewish tradition, with even most non-religious Jews taking part in this ancient biblical feast.

Passover recalls the Exodus from Egypt, when the Lord delivered the Israelites from bondage through His servant Moses. Jewish families begin this seven-day celebration at a festive “seder” meal that features matza, or unleavened bread, and other traditional foods that help tell the story of the Hebrew children’s passage from slavery to freedom.

For many Israeli families, however, the costs of providing such a memorable meal are beyond their means. This year is proving even more difficult for the poor, as the decline of the US dollar is impacting Israel’s economy and its social welfare net.

Every year, the Embassy’s social assistance arm, ICEJ-AID, distributes Passover baskets to needy families, and requests started pouring in early on, as local charities and social workers look for extra funding to cover their stretched Passover budgets.

The need is great. Nearly one quarter of Israeli families live below the poverty line, taking in 33% of the nation’s children.

In most years, we have standing commitments at Passover to assist Jewish organizations in feeding Holocaust survivors, new immigrants, the elderly, victims of terror, and other needy Israelis. ICEJ-AID not only puts something on their tables, but we give a special greeting card to express our own joy in being able to cheer up their holiday. The message contains the promises of Scripture and an encouraging word that they are loved by Christians worldwide.

This year, in addition to those social workers and humanitarian groups that we normally work with at Pessach, ICEJ-AID would like to do something special for the embattled residents of Sderot, who suffer from daily rocket attacks from Gaza. To do so, we need funds to meet our prior commitments as well as additional monies that can provide holiday cheer to needy families in Sderot.

We are also continuing to provide Israeli communities situated along the Gaza border with protection from rocket barrages through the provision of portable bomb shelters. In addition, we are seeking to fund a major renovation and ‘safe room’ at the Keren Or Youth Center which serves the area’s troubled teens.

So please give generously this Passover! (☞)

*Help Israelis Celebrate their Freedom*

Please Give Generously to the ICEJ-AID Passover Appeal

www.icejusa.org/aid

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.”

1 Corinthians 11:26

“...when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord...”

Exodus 12:13
Exodus 12:13-14

Passover is the first of the three great pilgrimage feasts that God gave to Israel while in the wilderness. It marks the Exodus, when God delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. It is always celebrated on the 14th day of Nisan, the first month in the Hebrew ecclesiastical calendar. The week-long festival begins a month later than Easter this year on the evening of April 19th.

Also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Passover begins around the Seder table, and follows a set “order” in recalling the dramatic way Moses led the Israelites out of slavery. For the next seven days, Jews are commanded to eat only unleavened bread, or matza, in remembrance of that time when the children of Israel left in such haste there was no time for their bread to rise.

Traditionally the Seder meal also featured the Passover lamb, a reminder of the young lamb the Hebrew slaves were instructed to sacrifice and eat, while placing the lamb’s blood on their front doorposts so the final plague of death against firstborn males in Egypt might “pass over” them.

Thousands of korban Pessach or Passover lambs were sacrificed each year at the Tabernacle in Shiloh and later at the Temple in Jerusalem, so each family could observe the holiday.

Samuel the Prophet revived this sacred festival, which took on new splendor when King Solomon completed the First Temple. After his death Passover celebrations declined, only to be reinstated at times by such godly kings as Hezekiah and Josiah.

After the destruction of the First Temple, the lamb could no longer be sacrificed, replaced by prayers and the eating of matza and bitter herbs. Once the Second Temple was built, the lamb sacrifices returned until its destruction in 70 A.D. It was during this period that Jesus was crucified while Passover lambs were being ritually slain inside the Temple courts.

Worldwide, more than 80% of Jewish people usually take part in a Seder meal, a figure that reaches 90% in Israel. Besides special types of food, families read the Haggadah, the re-telling of the biblical narrative from the book of Exodus, accompanied by traditional songs. Many of today’s practices date back to the Second Temple era.

90% of Israelis Still Keep the Seder

By Petra van der Zande

PASSOVER WAS THE FIRST OF THE THREE GREAT PILGRIMAGE FEASTS THAT GOD GAVE TO ISRAEL WHILE IN THE WILDERNESS. IT MARKS THE EXODUS, WHEN GOD DELIVERED THE ISRAELITES FROM BONDAGE IN EGYPT. IT IS ALWAYS CELEBRATED ON THE 14TH DAY OF NISAN, THE FIRST MONTH IN THE JEWISH CALENDAR. THE WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL BEGINS A MONTH LATER THAN EASTER THIS YEAR ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 19TH.

Also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Passover begins around the Seder table, and follows a set “order” in recalling the dramatic way Moses led the Israelites out of slavery. For the next seven days, Jews are commanded to eat only unleavened bread, or matza, in remembrance of that time when the children of Israel left in such haste there was no time for their bread to rise.

Traditionally the Seder meal also featured the Passover lamb, a reminder of the young lamb the Hebrew slaves were instructed to sacrifice and eat, while placing the lamb’s blood on their front doorposts so the final plague of death against firstborn males in Egypt might “pass over” them.

Thousands of korban Pessach or Passover lambs were sacrificed each year at the Tabernacle in Shiloh and later at the Temple in Jerusalem, so each family could observe the holiday.

Samuel the Prophet revived this sacred festival, which took on new splendor when King Solomon completed the First Temple. After his death Passover celebrations declined, only to be reinstated at times by such godly kings as Hezekiah and Josiah.

After the destruction of the First Temple, the lamb could no longer be sacrificed, replaced by prayers and the eating of matza and bitter herbs. Once the Second Temple was built, the lamb sacrifices returned until its destruction in 70 A.D. It was during this period that Jesus was crucified while Passover lambs were being ritually slain inside the Temple courts.

Worldwide, more than 80% of Jewish people usually take part in a Seder meal, a figure that reaches 90% in Israel. Besides special types of food, families read the Haggadah, the re-telling of the biblical narrative from the book of Exodus, accompanied by traditional songs. Many of today’s practices date back to the Second Temple era.

PASSOVER WAS THE FIRST OF THE THREE GREAT PILGRIMAGE FEASTS THAT GOD GAVE TO ISRAEL WHILE IN THE WILDERNESS. IT MARKS THE EXODUS, WHEN GOD DELIVERED THE ISRAELITES FROM BONDAGE IN EGYPT. IT IS ALWAYS CELEBRATED ON THE 14TH DAY OF NISAN, THE FIRST MONTH IN THE JEWISH CALENDAR. THE WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL BEGINS A MONTH LATER THAN EASTER THIS YEAR ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 19TH.

Also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Passover begins around the Seder table, and follows a set “order” in recalling the dramatic way Moses led the Israelites out of slavery. For the next seven days, Jews are commanded to eat only unleavened bread, or matza, in remembrance of that time when the children of Israel left in such haste there was no time for their bread to rise.

Traditionally the Seder meal also featured the Passover lamb, a reminder of the young lamb the Hebrew slaves were instructed to sacrifice and eat, while placing the lamb’s blood on their front doorposts so the final plague of death against firstborn males in Egypt might “pass over” them.

Thousands of korban Pessach or Passover lambs were sacrificed each year at the Tabernacle in Shiloh and later at the Temple in Jerusalem, so each family could observe the holiday.

Samuel the Prophet revived this sacred festival, which took on new splendor when King Solomon completed the First Temple. After his death Passover celebrations declined, only to be reinstated at times by such godly kings as Hezekiah and Josiah.

After the destruction of the First Temple, the lamb could no longer be sacrificed, replaced by prayers and the eating of matza and bitter herbs. Once the Second Temple was built, the lamb sacrifices returned until its destruction in 70 A.D. It was during this period that Jesus was crucified while Passover lambs were being ritually slain inside the Temple courts.

Worldwide, more than 80% of Jewish people usually take part in a Seder meal, a figure that reaches 90% in Israel. Besides special types of food, families read the Haggadah, the re-telling of the biblical narrative from the book of Exodus, accompanied by traditional songs. Many of today’s practices date back to the Second Temple era.

PASSOVER WAS THE FIRST OF THE THREE GREAT PILGRIMAGE FEASTS THAT GOD GAVE TO ISRAEL WHILE IN THE WILDERNESS. IT MARKS THE EXODUS, WHEN GOD DELIVERED THE ISRAELITES FROM BONDAGE IN EGYPT. IT IS ALWAYS CELEBRATED ON THE 14TH DAY OF NISAN, THE FIRST MONTH IN THE JEWISH CALENDAR. THE WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL BEGINS A MONTH LATER THAN EASTER THIS YEAR ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 19TH.

Also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Passover begins around the Seder table, and follows a set “order” in recalling the dramatic way Moses led the Israelites out of slavery. For the next seven days, Jews are commanded to eat only unleavened bread, or matza, in remembrance of that time when the children of Israel left in such haste there was no time for their bread to rise.

Traditionally the Seder meal also featured the Passover lamb, a reminder of the young lamb the Hebrew slaves were instructed to sacrifice and eat, while placing the lamb’s blood on their front doorposts so the final plague of death against firstborn males in Egypt might “pass over” them.

Thousands of korban Pessach or Passover lambs were sacrificed each year at the Tabernacle in Shiloh and later at the Temple in Jerusalem, so each family could observe the holiday.

Samuel the Prophet revived this sacred festival, which took on new splendor when King Solomon completed the First Temple. After his death Passover celebrations declined, only to be reinstated at times by such godly kings as Hezekiah and Josiah.

After the destruction of the First Temple, the lamb could no longer be sacrificed, replaced by prayers and the eating of matza and bitter herbs. Once the Second Temple was built, the lamb sacrifices returned until its destruction in 70 A.D. It was during this period that Jesus was crucified while Passover lambs were being ritually slain inside the Temple courts.

Worldwide, more than 80% of Jewish people usually take part in a Seder meal, a figure that reaches 90% in Israel. Besides special types of food, families read the Haggadah, the re-telling of the biblical narrative from the book of Exodus, accompanied by traditional songs. Many of today’s practices date back to the Second Temple era.

PASSOVER WAS THE FIRST OF THE THREE GREAT PILGRIMAGE FEASTS THAT GOD GAVE TO ISRAEL WHILE IN THE WILDERNESS. IT MARKS THE EXODUS, WHEN GOD DELIVERED THE ISRAELITES FROM BONDAGE IN EGYPT. IT IS ALWAYS CELEBRATED ON THE 14TH DAY OF NISAN, THE FIRST MONTH IN THE JEWISH CALENDAR. THE WEEK-LONG FESTIVAL BEGINS A MONTH LATER THAN EASTER THIS YEAR ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 19TH.

Also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Passover begins around the Seder table, and follows a set “order” in recalling the dramatic way Moses led the Israelites out of slavery. For the next seven days, Jews are commanded to eat only unleavened bread, or matza, in remembrance of that time when the children of Israel left in such haste there was no time for their bread to rise.

Traditionally the Seder meal also featured the Passover lamb, a reminder of the young lamb the Hebrew slaves were instructed to sacrifice and eat, while placing the lamb’s blood on their front doorposts so the final plague of death against firstborn males in Egypt might “pass over” them.

Thousands of korban Pessach or Passover lambs were sacrificed each year at the Tabernacle in Shiloh and later at the Temple in Jerusalem, so each family could observe the holiday.

Samuel the Prophet revived this sacred festival, which took on new splendor when King Solomon completed the First Temple. After his death Passover celebrations declined, only to be reinstated at times by such godly kings as Hezekiah and Josiah.

After the destruction of the First Temple, the lamb could no longer be sacrificed, replaced by prayers and the eating of matza and bitter herbs. Once the Second Temple was built, the lamb sacrifices returned until its destruction in 70 A.D. It was during this period that Jesus was crucified while Passover lambs were being ritually slain inside the Temple courts.

Worldwide, more than 80% of Jewish people usually take part in a Seder meal, a figure that reaches 90% in Israel. Besides special types of food, families read the Haggadah, the re-telling of the biblical narrative from the book of Exodus, accompanied by traditional songs. Many of today’s practices date back to the Second Temple era.
Seeds of Destruction

Lessons from the Holocaust Part 2

By Susan Michael

It is a part of human nature – fallen human nature - to need a scapegoat. We tend to look for someone else to blame for our problems; someone to look down on so we feel better about ourselves. It is all too easy to walk in unforgiveness or to perpetuate divisions that originated thousands of years ago. It’s easy, but it is not right.

As Christians we should walk in the compassion and forgiveness of our Lord. We should embody His teaching to not judge others or walk in religious self-righteousness. If only the Church had walked in the humility and meekness that Jesus taught us the Holocaust could never have happened.

Let us be clear: Christianity did not cause the Holocaust. But by the same token, Christian anti-Semitism made the Holocaust possible. Centuries of Church-led persecutions and pogroms laid the groundwork for racial, genocidal anti-Semitism by stigmatizing not only Judaism but the Jews themselves. Hitler actually used medieval Catholic anti-Jewish legislation as a model and reprinted Martin Luther’s anti-Semitic writings for distribution.

Saint John Chrysostom, one of the most eloquent preachers in the fourth century - whose very name meant “golden-mouthed” - said of the Jewish people “God hates you.” These words paved the way for the institutionalized Church to justify the persecution and even murder of Jews as an expression of so-called ‘Divine wrath.’

Throughout the Middle Ages Europe’s Jews suffered at the hands of degrading, discriminatory laws. “After all,” Church authorities would argue, “they were an accursed people, assassins of Christ, so how could they prosper?” Their children were kidnapped and baptized to save them from hell. They were rounded up and beaten as a highlight of Easter celebrations.

If prominent Church leaders could call the Jews “monstrous animals” it is no wonder Nazi cartoonists could depict them as devils with horns and tails. It was not Hitler who thought up the infamous ‘yellow star’ to be worn by all Jews like lepers, but Pope Innocent, whose call for Jews to wear distinctive clothing in the 13th century laid the foundation for the centuries of pogroms that followed.

Evangelicals often argue that these were not the actions of ‘real Christians.’ But even ‘real Christians’ are not immune from falling into the sin of anti-Semitism.

Martin Luther, the father of the Reformation, who changed the world in his youth by preaching salvation by faith alone, became increasingly bitter and hostile towards the Jews towards the end of his life. What’s more, his writings outlined specific ways to persecute and degrade them ending with a plea for some form of solution “that we all may be free of this insufferable devilish burden – the Jews.”

Four hundred years later, in Luther’s Germany, Hitler came up with the solution for ‘the Jewish problem’ and the church was silent - neither the Catholics nor the Protestants withstood him.

The irony of this situation is that the Church, an offshoot of Judaism, founded by the Jewish Messiah and built on teachings of forgiveness and love could be perverted by the devil to persecute the very Jewish people the Bible commands us to honor.

Holocaust historian Raul Hillberg sums it up simply. In Medieval times, the Church declared “You have no right to live amongst us as Jews.” The secular rulers who followed expelled Jews from their lands as though to say “You have no right to live amongst us.” Then Hitler later decreed: “You have no right to live.” The Nazis were just one more step in the progression of anti-Semitism that brought the seeds of destruction to full bloom.

The lesson for us today is to be careful of the seeds we plant. No matter which branch of Christianity we adhere to, we must be on guard against the human tendency to find someone else to blame, to look down on others and to be blinded by self-righteousness.

May we learn to walk in the compassion and humility of Jesus instead.

Susan Michael serves as Director of the ICEJ’s USA Branch
In late February, ICEJ Executive Director Rev. Malcolm Hedding, International Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler, Music Director Chuck King and Nigeria National Director Rev. Mosy Madugba, spent a weekend ministering at a remarkable Bible college in Bad Gandersheim, in Germany.

This unique campus, called Glaubenszentrum, is now teaching the Word of God in testimony to the triumph of God’s goodness over evil and to the fact that the God of the Jews is faithful to His promises.

What makes this campus so unusual is that the facility was originally built on orders of Adolf Hitler and became a key training facility for his Nazi SS special motorized brigades, which traversed occupied Europe in search of Jewish victims. Thankfully, that ghastly reign of terror is over and the Nazi regime is long gone, while what remains is the reborn state of Israel as promised in scripture.

Today, in place of the death preached at the SS training center, the building is used to proclaim the Word of God, including biblical truths about His irrevocable calling of the Jewish people.

The German chapter of the worldwide ministry Christ for the Nations, based in Dallas, Texas, has established a respected Bible seminary on the site that is proving influential in revival in Germany. As part of its outreach, the local CFN chapter has officially partnered with ICEJ-Germany to hold conferences on Israel.

Over the weekend of meetings, the ICEJ team preached powerfully on the restoration of Israel and God’s commitment to the survival of the Jewish people, as well as on prayer and other devotional subjects. It was a very special time and made even more special by the unique historical circumstances behind it.
Finally, a generation of Christians are getting their hearts right towards the Jewish people, and Israelis are starting to take notice.

Surprisingly, even the left-leaning Hebrew daily Ha’aretz is planning a special supplement for the 60th Anniversary commemorations that focuses entirely on the phenomena of unprecedented Christian support for Israel. So there is something special to celebrate this year, and it is the strengthening bonds of Christian-Jewish friendship.

The best way to mark this occasion is to consider joining thousands of pilgrims from more than 70 nations for this year’s Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem - a life-changing week of teaching, worship and prayer that continues to touch and inspire the people of Israel in profound ways.

Another is to join our worldwide petition to the United Nations regarding the Iranian menace to Israel.

Just two weeks before the official 60th Anniversary ceremonies, Israel will mark its annual Holocaust Day. At that time, the ICEJ will be delivering to the UN Secretary General a worldwide Christian petition urging that Iranian leaders be held to account for their incitement to genocide against the Jewish State.

Please make sure that you, your family, your friends and those you fellowship with have signed our online petition.

Go to www.icejusa.org/stopiran today!

David Parsons serves as ICEJ Media Director in Jerusalem and Contributing Christian Editor of “The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition”: www.jpost.com/ce