Edwin Kaplan immigrated to Israel with his wife and two children several years ago from a small Jewish community in Peru. He had always dreamed of coming home to Israel and, due to rising anti-Semitism in his native country, he finally decided to make the move.

As with many others who have come before them, the Kaplan family arrived full of hope mixed with some apprehension about their new life and surroundings.

But from the start, everything seemed to go wrong.

They had a house fire. The children found it challenging to adjust to the new schools. It was not easy for Edwin to find work. In addition, his lack of understanding of the language and legal system in Israel caused him to sign onerous documents that led to him into serious debt. Within a very short time, the family was reduced to survival mode. Edwin was so discouraged that he was ready to give up and return to Peru.

This was when he met a representative of “Shoulder to Shoulder” and learned that he could receive help. This is a special program which matches new immigrants who have fallen into difficulty with native Israeli volunteers trained to counsel them in adjusting to life in Israel. This assistance is vital to enabling them to stand on their own feet. Without such aid, many would become permanent members of the welfare rolls or even decide to give up and return to their country of origin.

The program assists families by first of all paying off debts and obtaining basic furniture and other household items. Next, the focus is on proper education and after-school activities for the children. Finally, the immigrants receive help finding jobs. The intensive program provides assistance and counselling for up to three years and currently enjoys a success rate of 97 percent.

There are 50 Jewish immigrant families waiting to begin the program at present.

>> CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
for such a Time as this...

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’s United States Branch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with offices in Washington, D.C. and in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. We are a non-denominational faith ministry supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends.

We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by using the enclosed response card to make your donation to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.

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The Roman Road

Our Voice in Society Depends on our Willingness to Pray for our Leaders

By Malcolm Hedding

When Paul encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was in fact travelling on a Roman road. That is, the region was under Roman control and Paul himself used his Roman citizenship as a ticket to freedom and privilege (Acts 16:35-40).

While the rule of Rome was enlightened by modern day standards, it was brutal and ruthless. Rome’s justice was swift, without mercy and cruel. It is a sobering sight to see thousands of people nailed to crosses on the main roads of the empire. This was Rome’s way of warning occupied peoples against insurrection. The message was clear: Rome will not tolerate agitators of any sort.

In Rome itself, criminals and slaves were thrown to the lions in great open arenas and gladiators fought to the death to gain freedom from servitude. The crowds loved “the games” and even more so as blood was spilt in the most gruesome manner.

This was the Rome that Paul knew and wherein Christianity grew and flourished throughout its far flung regions. This too was the Rome that Paul called upon Christians to respectfully submit! (Romans 13:1-7). Moreover, Paul also commanded the followers of Christ to pray for the supreme and regional leaders of Rome (1 Timothy 2:1-7).

Thus, to sum up, Paul calls upon Christians firstly to recognize the seat of Caesar as the “servant of God” called to bring order and peace to the Empire. This “servant” does not “wear the sword” for nothing and indeed needs the constant prayers of Christians. All this so that there may be no hindrance to the preaching of the Gospel. Temporal affairs are not as important as eternal affairs!

For some Christians these teachings of Paul are hard to swallow, especially if the sword-bearing government is not Christian, does not subscribe to Christian values, and appears to be ruthless, as Rome was! But Paul knew the power of submission and intercession. The one gives entrance and opens doors; and the other brings supernatural change and transformation.

Today we prefer to gather on the sidelines and criticize. This is far easier than to go the biblical route. And, after all, the biblical route seems powerless and weak. The truth is, we know the power of prayer and do not employ it. When the Christian world gains the right to speak, God raises up prophetic voices to call the nations and their leaders to account responsibly. The fledgling church of Paul’s day could not “address” Rome for the simple reason that it had not grown in stature to be recognized with a voice in that way. Submission and intercession were the “instruments” that Paul advocated.

Today in America this principle still applies. The new administration cannot remotely be compared to that of Rome. Christians may disagree with it but they must submit and intercede! The latter is vital! Thankfully, in America today the church has gained “a voice” and it is crucial that the American church pray for a “spiritual father of the nation” to be raised up to give voice to the purpose of God with dignity. This is the Roman road! 😇

“The truth is, we know the power of prayer and do not employ it. When the Christian world gains the right to speak, God raises up prophetic voices to call the nations to account...”

www.icejusa.org/pray
The Politics of Betrayal

BY MALCOLM HEDDING

After 61 years of statehood Israel is yet to be recognized as a Jewish state by a Palestinian leadership at war with itself and still openly committed to her destruction...

It is nothing short of astonishing to note the agenda-driven politics of our day. It gives lip service to grand ideals, papers over the truth in order to distort reality, and in the end amounts to betrayal. This is the picture that is unfolding before our eyes concerning Israel and her battle for survival. Even her long-accepted historical narrative is being denied in order to achieve certain global goals.

Caught in this web of intrigue, the tiny nation of Israel twists and bends so as to somehow appease its allies, who have now decided that a “two-state solution” is the only way forward for her. This in spite of the following:

The Road to Oblivion

Israel is now expected to make peace with a Palestinian polity that is presently at war with itself and that does not accept Israel’s right to exist! This is not just true of Hamas in Gaza, but also of the Palestinian Authority and its leader Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank. A report published by The Jerusalem Post on June 1st noted that in an interview with Arab journalists, Abbas reaffirmed his refusal to recognize Israel as a Jewish state; his hard-line approach on refugees and Jerusalem; and of course his demand that Israel, at last, withdraw to the pre-1967 armistice lines.

In Gaza, Hamas is less sophisticated in its demands and openly struts its destructive plans! Hamas has not only butchered Fatah loyalists but also has effectively turned Gaza into a militant Islamist enclave dedicated to destroying Israel. Moreover, like its northern cousin Hizbullah, it is funded and armed by Iran. In reality, Israel has fought two proxy wars with Iran in the last three years. Now she is expected to open negotiations with her enemies in the expectation of ultimately handing over Jerusalem to them! What right thinking Western nation would do this, and where in history is there a precedent for this nonsense? The allies did this for a brief moment in 1939 when Hitler took over the Rhineland, Austria and the Sudetenland. They realized in the end that their policy of appeasement had encouraged destruction and war when it became Poland’s turn. Five years later, with tens of millions of lives lost, they counted the cost of “toying with evil” and turning a blind eye.

It is unthinkable that the West, including professing friends of Israel, would now insist on pushing her into the arms of terrorists who desire nothing less than her total removal from the regional map. This is the road to oblivion.

The Road to Democracy

Where in the Middle East region, apart from Israel and Lebanon, is there an example of democracy? Israel is the stronger of these two and indeed is a shining light of freedom, tolerance, advancement and opportunity for all. As a consequence, her contribution to the wider world in all fields of endeavor is great and indeed disproportionate to her size. By contrast, the Arab/Muslim nations of the region are largely totalitarian; tolerant of Islam only; suppressing when it comes to women’s and minority rights; and illiterate by world standards!
The same privileges their expatriates enjoy in Western nations concerning freedom of religion and expression, they deny to others in their countries. Christians cannot practice their faith openly, build churches or propagate their message! Bibles are in many cases banned, but the “Protocols of Zion” are sold openly on streets from Damascus to Tehran. From their religious and political podiums one only hears incitement to hatred and calls for Israel’s destruction. Their school textbooks pursue the same dark schemes. In short, there is no road to democracy, as it all but ends at the borders of Israel. The question is: Should the West impose democracy on the region? The answer is no! However, it should strongly stand behind Israel and, when engaging the non-democratic regimes of the region, adopt policies that do not reward dictatorships.

Palestinian Media Watch and MEMRI have more than proved this by demonstrating time and time again that what was said to Western politicians was openly repudiated when speaking to the Muslim world in their native Arabic. Even Yasser Arafat, addressing a gathering in Johannesburg in 1994, stated that his real intention through the Oslo peace agreements was the destruction of Israel. Faced with this fact, Western politicians turned a blind eye and dismissed it as mere rhetoric!

And what of Gaza? Israel pulled out with good intentions and was rewarded with hostility. We all saw it coming except the enlightened politicians of the world and, sadly, of Israel – who knew better. It begs the question, why is the obvious not seen by the intellectual elite? More important still, why is Israel being pushed into the arms of Hamas? What other nation would do so in similar circumstances?

The road to agreement must begin with the cessation of violence, the recognition of Israel’s right to exist and a genuine desire for peace. Anything short of this is madness, but alas that very madness persists!

**The Road to Peace**

Israel has fully demonstrated her desire for peace and willingness to reconcile with partners truly committed to the same goals. It is almost unbelievable that after 61 years of statehood, Israel is yet to be recognized as an existing Jewish state by the Palestinian leadership. Both charters, that is of Hamas and the PLO, continue to call for her destruction. Moreover, both are engaged in a violent power struggle over who will dictate how the campaign to eliminate Israel is waged.

Further, when Israel makes concessions she is rewarded with violence. This happened in September of 2000 and after the Gaza pullout of 2005. In addition, behind the conflict is a radical Islamic theology that denies that Israel can exist on what was once the Dar al-Salaam (House of Islamic Peace).

Until these realities are firmly dealt with by the international community, Israel should not be shoved down the road to peace. A two state solution is currently unthinkable as it will result in more of the same. That is, more violence and renewed assaults against the Jewish state. Houses with weak foundations always collapse, leading to unnecessary loss of life. Gaza proved this, as did the negotiations under Oslo. They failed because the foundations that should lead to true peace were not firmly put in place first. In fact, they were knowingly ignored. When this happens once, it can be excused; but when it happens repeatedly, it amounts to stupidity! Or, is there another agenda behind this apparent stupidity?

All this is not to say that there should be no road to peace. There should, but it must be properly built. Israel has time and again stated that she has no desire to rule over the Palestinians. Her actions have, I believe, proved this. However, if your perceived peace partner continuously denies your existence and calls for your destruction, then the equation must change. To move forward under these circumstances is a road to national suicide – a fate that Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would no doubt welcome!
Two of the best-loved speakers from the ICEJ's annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration gathered in Murfreesboro, Tennessee for powerful three-day teaching conference over the Memorial Day weekend in May. ICEJ Executive Director Rev. Malcolm Hedding was joined by veteran British Bible-teacher Rev. David Pawson at an event that drew thousands of participants to learn more about “Israel, the Church and the Nations” in our day.

With great skill and clarity, Rev. Pawson expounded on chapters 9-11 of the book of Romans, calling attention to the sixteen surprising truths contained in these chapters. At the conclusion of his last session, he broke into a spontaneous doxology of praise that swept the whole church into worship and thanksgiving.

Meanwhile, Rev. Hedding used the alternating sessions throughout the weekend to address the theological topics of Replacement Theology, the Great Covenants of the Bible, the Mystery of Israel and the Day of the Lord.

Rev. Pawson, Rev Hedding and conference host Rev. Allen Jackson will all be speaking again this year at the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem. They will be joined by ICEJ USA Director, Susan Michael, who will be delivering the keynote address to the thousands of Israelis that traditionally fill the Jerusalem Convention Center for the annual ‘Israeli Night’ event.

To learn more about attending the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles celebration call our US office toll-free on: 1-800-379-3897.

To order your complete conference CD or DVD set call us today on: (615) 895-9830
Week Five: The Church

This week pray for your Church and for all the churches in your town and city. Pray that “your candlestick” will burn brightly and shine the light of Jesus upon your broken and fallen world. (Revelation 2:5) Above all submit to and pray for those whom God has set in oversight over you. These are precious men of God who need your prayers. (Hebrews 13:17) They are not perfect but seek to glorify God in the local church. They count on and need your prayers. Support them by being faithful and dependable and God will honor you and answer your prayers. Remember that Jesus cried out to God with strong crying and tears. (Hebrews 5:7) Therefore we should follow His example and do the same.

Week Six: God’s Sovereignty

Scripture affirms that Jesus is now at the right hand of glory interceding for us. (Romans 8:34) He is also waiting for His enemies, of which He has many, to come to His footstool. (Luke 20:41-44) Included in this group are those who seek the destruction of Israel. (Psalm 2) Pray this week for His sovereign purposes to be fulfilled in the Middle East and Israel. (Matthew 6:10)

Week Seven: The Government

The Bible teaches that we should have respect and honor for our national leaders. (Romans 13:1-7) Too many Christians confuse respect and honor with compromise. They are wrong! To carry out the biblical injunction to honor and pray for our leaders does not mean that we necessarily agree with them. Pray this week that our national leaders will govern justly and wisely and do what is right concerning Israel in the sight of God.

Week Eight: For Faithfulness

The Book of Revelation notes that God’s great acts in history and in the earth today are because of the faithful prayers of His people. (Revelations 5:8) While prayer most certainly has an aspect of mystery to it, we know it moves the heart of God and that it does change the world! Keep on praying for all things and about all things in life.

More ICEJ prayer resources are available online at:

www.icejusa.org/pray

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Finally, it must be noted that Israel’s existence today is not because of the Holocaust. The Holocaust only proved what Theodor Herzl posited—that the Jews would not be safe unless they had a state of their own. His movement to found a Jewish State in the Land of Israel began in the late 19th century, nearly five decades before the Holocaust.

The early 20th century saw the resettlement of what was then Palestine by waves of returning Jews. Their right to re-settle the Land of Israel was based on a 4,000 year historical claim and connection dating back to the Hebrew patriarch Abraham. This claim was already recognized by the League of Nations in the British Mandate of 1922. The Holocaust just reinforced the urgency of the need for an independent Jewish nation in their ancient homeland, as well as its moral underpinnings.

The existence of the Jewish nation and people are remarkable, their achievements amazing and their book, the Bible, is enlightening. This book warns the nations against dividing the land (Joel 3:1-3), probably because underlying such endeavors was hostility with destruction in mind, and not sincerity. Has anything changed? (6)

Rev. Malcolm Hedding serves as ICEJ Executive Director in Jerusalem
The Ministry of Absorption is sponsoring about 30% of the program costs; the remaining 70% must be raised in donations. The program is operating in Beersheva and Ashkelon; however, they would like to expand this successful model nationwide. ICEJ AID is committed to helping them achieve their goals.

Edwin can certainly testify to the tremendous benefits of Shoulder to Shoulder. Over the course of the past few years, he has enjoyed the support of a mentor who helped him overcome the huge obstacles facing his family. Today, both he and his wife are working. The children have adjusted at school and he has someone to ask advice of when he does not understand how the system works.

“I finally feel a real part of the community and connected to my homeland of Israel. I’m ready to go on and help others,” Edwin assured us.

Please help us keep struggling new immigrants from abandoning their dreams in Israel. Give to ICEJ AID today!

Nicole Yoder serves as ICEJ AID Director in Jerusalem

“I finally feel a real part of the community and connected to my homeland of Israel. I’m ready to go on and help others.”

For 30 years ICEJ AID has demonstrated Christ’s love to families like the Kaplans across Israel.

Partner with us: www.icejusa.org/aid