Over 5,000 Christian pilgrims from more than 80 nations gathered in Jerusalem in early October to attend the 30th annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration, sponsored by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

They travelled long distances in spite of the global economic downturn. Many overcame difficult trials in their home nations. All were united by their determination to worship and pray in Jerusalem and to express their support for the Jewish people. This demonstration of Christian love and concern was well received by Israelis besieged by an increasing wave of international hostility, as efforts to isolate and delegitimize their nation gather pace.

The week-long festivities started off once again at Ein Gedi, along the shores of the Dead Sea, with a live recording of a spectacular worship concert led by Paul Wilbur and also featuring special guest artist Ana Paula Valadão from Brazil. The lyrics were full of scriptural exhortations for both Israel and the nations, while the fusion of musical styles varied from Hebraic to jazz rhythms. The hour-long performance of Wilbur’s latest songs is set for release early next year.

From the very outset of the Feast, it was clear the pilgrims had come to rejoice in the Lord and to pursue God’s purposes for Israel in our day. Standing in line for the Ein Gedi meal, Nena Benigno from the Philippines explained how she had come in spite of the tremendous damage back home in Manila wrought by Typhoon Ketsana. Just days before, she had been caught in the terrifying deluge.

“In 15 minutes the water was up to my waist. I was trapped. I couldn’t go home...” Nena Benigno, The Philippines

Her companion, Ruth Castro, was attired in a beautiful dress and nice shoes, but no

>> CONTINUED ON PAGES 4-5
Dear Friends,

We had a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles celebration last month and although the event took place in challenging financial times, it was blessed by the attendance of over 5,000 Christians from all over the world. This is always a miracle that gives testimony to the faithfulness of God and to His desire that this great annual gathering should continue to be a blessing to His people Israel. We are humbled by His love and provision and in the desire that this great annual gathering should continue to be a blessing to His people Israel. We are humbled by His love and provision and in the pages of this edition of the Word from Jerusalem, you will find some glorious pictures of this year’s festivities. Enjoy, and do plan to join us next year as we once again celebrate the feast of Succot.

Our theme next year will be “Jerusalem, a praise in the earth”. This will enable us to give added momentum to our campaign on behalf of the city that we began at this year’s Feast under the slogan, Jerusalem United. There is no doubt that powerful international political interests are seeking to disinvest the Jewish people of their ancient capital of Jerusalem, otherwise known as the Old City. We stand against this on biblical, historical and moral grounds, fully believing that Jerusalem should and must remain the undivided, eternal capital of the Jewish people.

This is the only just position that can be taken and it will continue to guarantee free access for all faiths to their holy sites in the city. This has been the undeniable situation since 1967. Moreover, the Jewish people can claim, without contradiction, a three thousand year-old relationship with the city. There are no other contenders to this claim and yet the international community wants to divide the city, in some manner, again. This is outrageous and yet it is clearly foretold by Scripture. The Prophet Zechariah foretold that a day would come when all nations of the earth would attempt to wrest control of the city away from the Jewish people with serious consequences for themselves. (Zechariah12:1-3)

Naturally, the international community has little regard for Scripture but they will discover its truth, to their own hurt! The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was founded on the principle that Jerusalem should remain the undivided capital of the Jewish people and we will not waver in this commitment. As we prepare for next year’s Feast, we intend to broaden out our Jerusalem United campaign yet further. We look forward to linking hands with you in our efforts.

Thank you for standing with us.

Rev. Malcolm Hedding
ICEJ Executive Director

Please mail all donations to:
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www.icejusa.org
The theme of the “Tabernacle of David”, as we have it in this book of Amos, is about the subject of restoration. Amos 9:11-15 states, “On that day I will raise up the Tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up it ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old.”

So the story of David’s Tabernacle and its full restoration has to do with three things. First, the vehicle of world redemption; second, the scope of world redemption; and third, the conclusion of world redemption. The vehicle being Israel. The scope being the world. And the conclusion being a King that will reign from this city in the near future.

According to Amos 9, we live in a day of restoration. It’s the King restoring our lives, and making us whole people; giving us righteousness as a gift and imparting righteousness to our lives that we can live for Him and love Him.

Secondly, that it’s a day of royal restoration. God is going to raise up David’s fallen booth. A day of royal restoration when unrighteousness and sin will be cast out of the earth. And the power and the influence of the devil will be brought to an end.

Thirdly, it’s a day of remarkable restoration; that is, it’s against the tide of history. It’s not expected. If you look at the world we live in today, the nation of Israel should not exist. It is a day of remarkable restoration, but it is a process and the God of the Bible is working day after day to fulfill His great process of restoration in Israel.

Fourthly, it’s a day of unexpected restoration. Amos says that in this day of restoration, a strange group of people will join Israel... That Edom will be part of Israel, and the Gentiles will also join themselves to Israel. The point is that the people who were once so against Israel and were the enemies of Israel, will undergo a remarkable transition.

And finally it’s a day of perpetual restoration. The prophet Amos says the Jewish people will return home. There will be a physical restoration. It will be followed by a spiritual recovery. What a wonderful day that will be. And the Bible says that day will conclude with the final great statement of restoration. “I will plant them in their land and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land that I have given them, says the Lord your God.”

My dear friends, the nation of Israel has not come back by a political accident. There is a process of restoration. It is the restoration of the Tabernacle of David. It will come in its fullness. And this dear people of Israel will never be uprooted again. 🌱

Rev. Malcolm Hedding serves as ICEJ Executive Director and travels extensively teaching about God’s purposes for Israel in these days.
one would have known they had been borrowed, since she had just lost everything in the powerful tropical storm. Her home, her business, her car, her grand piano, her antique furniture – they were all in ruins. Yet she was praising God for still being alive and able to visit the Holy Land and learn the truth about what is happening here. “I am convinced that this is a miracle from heaven,” she said, radiating faith.

The Feast then moved up to Jerusalem for the gala Opening Night and traditional roll call of the nations. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and cabinet minister Yuli Edelstein were the first of several Israeli dignitaries to bring greetings to their Christian friends.

By the time of the popular Jerusalem March several days later, the Israeli media were eager to report the stories of the courageous Filipinos and many of the other Christian pilgrims proudly parading through the streets.

The delegations from Venezuela and Bolivia were of particular interest, since the Marxist-leaning governments in both of these South American countries have recently broken off diplomatic relations with Israel and forged closer ties to the radical regime in Iran. “We are not Chávez!” the Venezuelan pilgrims assured Israelis, in reference to their country’s maverick president Hugo Chávez, a close ally of Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

“The hope and desire of all of us Venezuelans here at the Feast is to show Israel in a practical and spiritual way that we love them and that they are not alone,” one Venezuelan pastor told the Hebrew daily Ma’ariv.
Meanwhile, Pastor Alberto Magno Sales de Oliveira, the national director for ICEJ-Bolivia, led a colourful delegation that brought not only a message of solidarity with Israel, but also a special financial gift for the nation. Since his first visit to Jerusalem in 1999, Pastor Alberto has held a “Shabbat” service in his growing congregation every Friday evening to teach and pray about Israel, and each week he takes up a special collection to “bless” the Jewish people through the ICEJ.

“I concluded that the church had a debt to the Jewish people for so many blessings, prophecies, promises, the Bible and the Saviour, because God said that He would use this nation to bless all the nations of the world,” he said. “Today, more than 18 churches participate in this offering and the Shabbat service is the most attended of all our meetings.”

Bolivia is considered the poorest country in Latin America, yet Pastor Alberto beams that his church and community are prospering because of their support for Israel.

It was this kind of commitment and care for the Jewish people and their restored homeland that truly marked the 30th annual celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Shalle’ McDonald and Taylor Innes serve with the ICEJ Media Team in Jerusalem, contributing to the ICEJ’s ‘Front Page Jerusalem’ weekly radio program and ‘The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition.’

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PM Praises Christian ‘Moral Clarity’

“You have crystal clear answers that are based on justice and based on truth”

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Welcome Address, Feast of Tabernacles 2009

adies and Gentlemen, delegates from around the world... Welcome all of you to Jerusalem, the eternal, undivided capital of Israel and the Jewish people.

Last week I spoke at the UN. I spoke about many things, but I really spoke about one thing - moral clarity. I asked people to take a clear stand; a clear stand against or for the denial of the Holocaust. Against or for a person who promises to wipe out the Jewish state. Against or for the terrorists, the terrorists who hide behind civilians, while firing on civilians. Against or for a democratic state of Israel that defends itself as any country would and in fact, sets a standard for fighting terrorists in a clean, legitimate way.

I asked people to take all those stands. And I said also to take a stand for us, for all of us. Take a stand for the rights of the Jewish people to a state of their own in their ancestral homeland, Israel the land of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. That’s what I asked people to do in the UN. Which is not easy to do in the UN. Because sometimes the simplest things become obfuscated and what is a clear moral case or a clear fact becomes befuddled and sometimes things are turned on their head — truth is turned on its head and morality is turned on its head.

But that is not the case with the people who are now assembled in this hall. You have crystal clear answers that are based on justice and based on truth. And that’s been the case for many, many decades. Thirty years ago, you decided to form the Christian Embassy in Israel. Why? Because all the other embassies were leaving Jerusalem. And that’s when this act, this statement of truth and justice was made.

And ever since you have been with us in the streets of Jerusalem. In the worst of times, you’ve always stood up for Israel. And you’ve communicated something very clear to us. You said to the people of Israel, “You are not alone. We are with you.”

Well, we say to you today, the people of Israel are with you. We’re together. And we’re together in a great, great adventure that stretches back thousands of years. The dreams and prayers of the Jewish people to come back to this land. To re-establish our life here in a free, independent Jewish state with a united Jerusalem as our capital. I know you share this vision. I know the strength of your faith. And God willing with our common efforts, and our great friendship we shall explain and make clear to all of mankind, even to the United Nations, that we’re here to stay.

Thank you and God bless you. ☺️
A Gift for New Life in Jerusalem

ICEJ Finland Provides Maternity Funding for Jerusalem’s Shaare Tzedek Hospital

By Taylor Innes

While in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles last month, Rev. Juha Ketola, national director for ICEJ-Finland, paid a special visit to the Shaare Tzedek Hospital in Jerusalem to deliver a donation of 15,000 Euros (approx. $22,000) for the facility’s new maternity ward.

The gift was made by a bequest by a Finnish Christian lady, who directed in her will that it be given to a hospital in Israel to help with the delivery of babies. Shaare Tzedek has the distinction of delivering 50% of the infants born in Jerusalem each year and the hospital is currently undergoing major expansions to three of its medical wings, including the maternity ward. The gift through the ICEJ’s Finnish branch has been applied to the purchase of two infant warmers, also known as “toasters”.

Juha Ketola and his wife, Kati, along with ICEJ AID director Nicole Yoder were hosted during their visit by Uri Schwarz, the hospital’s Director of International Operations, who provided a tour of the medical center. “Every time you see two babies in Jerusalem, statistically one is born here. So by far you have found the right place,” said Schwarz.

“The name of the hospital is unique because Shaare Tzedek is taken from the book of Psalm 118: ‘Open up for me the gates of righteousness’,” Schwarz continued. “The fact that the hospital is called ‘Gates of Righteousness’ is not coincidental, because we might all have our political opinions and backgrounds but all that stops at the door. Every patient is righteous [and] is treated exactly the same way.”

“I am especially glad to be here because usually the Christians from Finland who are helping the people in the land of Israel are just ordinary people; they are not wealthy people, but still they have given much to Israel,” said Rev. Ketola in presenting the donation. “In so doing this, we are partakers of the new life born in Israel and this gift is our hope and prayer that it will not only enhance life in Israel, but also convey a message that there are Christians who are really standing behind Israel.”

Ketola noted that Shaare Tzedek had been selected to receive the estate gift because the hospital does not perform abortions.

The donation to Shaare Tzedek follows on the heels of a recent ICEJ gift of US$ 25,000 to the new Ashdod Emergency Medical Center, the first hospital to be built in what is now Israel’s fifth largest city. Ashdod has been under increased rocket attack from Gaza, and residents in need of medical attention currently have to make a perilous journey to Ashkelon, Beersheba or Tel Aviv in times of conflict. ICEJ AID director Nicole Yoder visited the site together with ICEJ Executive Director Malcolm Hedding to present the gift this past summer.
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