n September 1980 the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem opened its doors in Jerusalem in response to the withdrawal of thirteen foreign Embassies from Jerusalem in protest against the Jerusalem Law, passed by the Knesset of Israel that declared Jerusalem the undivided eternal capital of the State of Israel. This response by the founders of the Christian Embassy to affirm the position of the Knesset of Israel was driven firstly by the Word of God and secondly, by the facts of history. In short the founders believed that Christians needed to stand up and affirm the truth of the Bible and the fact that this truth had been played out and verified by history.

Jerusalem has historically only been the capital of one people; the Jewish people. Their attachment to the city and involvement with it goes back 4000 years to Abraham and 3000 years to David. No other people group can lay claim to the city like this! It is embedded in their very souls and it is for this reason that they are so passionate about it and pray every Passover to be reunited with it. The International Christian Embassy was opened by the timing of God and by Christians who felt that the time had come for Christians everywhere to take a stand on this issue and on the issue of Israel’s restoration. We needed to be a source of comfort and blessing to Israel.

Since September 1980 the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has made good on this promise and it has subsequently flourished into a worldwide organization with a presence in over a hundred and ten countries of the world. This is testimony to God’s faithfulness and to His active involvement in this initiative. We are deeply humbled by this and thankful for our founders who were enabled by His grace to hear His heart and act appropriately.

The work of the Christian Embassy is diverse, dynamic and well established. Its deeds of love, comfort and kindness are well documented and are a tribute to the millions of Christians who have joined themselves to this Divine Project. Our only aim is to please God and thereby see His love and comfort brought to the hearts of His dear Jewish people who have suffered too long and sadly too much at the hands of Christians. Now they face “new enemies” on every side and we must and will stand with them by love and much prayer. The latter is a great weapon that, if picked up and used properly, can determine the destiny of Israel and the nations! Daniel learned this and knew it and so did David.

As we gather for this 31st Celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles we do also bow the knee before our gracious Heavenly Father and give Him thanks for all that He has done for us through over thirty years. God is faithful and we have seen it. There is no doubt in our minds that He has helped us because we are well aware of our weaknesses and count it a joy, together with you and all those throughout the world, to acknowledge this and rededicate ourselves fully to the heavenly vision. Our eyes are upon Him because this is His work.
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

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.

Please mail all donations to:
PO Box 440276
Nashville, TN 37244

Or make your tax-deductible gift online:
www.icejusa.org

ICEJ Fall Seminars

Huntsville, AL
Understanding Israel
Saturday October 16 @ 9.00am
The Dwelling Place
Malcolm Hedding, Daryl Hedding & Michael Hines

Viera, FL
Discerning the Times
Saturday October 23 @ 9.00am
Prince of Peace Church
Larry Booth & John Small

Detroit, MI
Understanding Israel
Saturday October 16 @ 9.00am
Russell Street Missionary Baptist Church
Susan Michael & Larry Booth

Savoy, IL
For Such a Time as This
October 29/30 @ 7pm/9am
First Baptist Church of Champaign
Carrie Burns & Susie Sandager

ICEJ Speaking Events

Rocky Mount, NC
Sunday October 3 @ 11am/6pm
Union Missionary Baptist Church
Michael Hines

Miami, FL
Sat. October 30 @ 8.30am/6pm
Sunday October 31 @ 9am
King Jesus Ministries
Malcolm Hedding with Paul Wilbur

Huntsville, AL
Sunday October 17 @ 10.30am
The Dwelling Place
Malcolm Hedding

Port Charlotte, FL
Wednesday October 27 @ 6.30pm
Murdock Baptist Church
Malcolm Hedding

For more details call (615) 895-9830 or visit:
www.icejusa.org/events
Days of Testing

By Rev. Malcolm Hedding

There is no doubt that great days of testing are upon us. God puts His people to the test, as He does nations and the Church. These “tests” are designed to determine the nature of our commitment to truth or to confirm our rejection of God’s Word and rebellion against His ways. They can also serve to prepare the object of testing for judgment (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12). No one escapes this principle in life. The Lord God of Heaven knows exactly what is in our hearts, but He brings it out into the open by the process of testing to make it clear to us and thereby to demonstrate His righteous ways in dealing with us. This applies to people groups, nations and church movements (Deuteronomy 13:1-3).

The “testings of God” always have to do with truth. The truth about God revealed through nature (Romans 1:18-21) and the truth of God revealed through His Word. We are indeed without excuse! The truth of God’s Word cannot be bent, changed or adapted to our liking. It remains forever and is above His name. Jesus said quite simply, “Thy word is truth!” (John 17:17). It is up to us to live by it or reject it. The grace and patience of God always leads us to it, but there comes a time when we have to make up our minds and take a stand.

I believe that this hour of testing has arrived and is coming upon the world in increasing measure and in a unique way. It has to do with:

**Our Personal Walk as Christians**
(1 Peter 4:12-17)

- We are proved or tested by fiery trials! These seasons of trial enable the nature of our faith to revealed (1 Peter 1:6-7). Only our confidence in God’s sovereignty and loving care over our lives will get us through these times, as we do not always have to understand everything that is happening to us.

**The World’s Response to Israel**
(Psalm 7:9)

- A terrifying day of judgment is coming to the nations of the world because they ignore truth when it comes to Israel and constantly seek to divide her land and even dismantle her existence. It is truly strange that global democracies constantly fail to support and stand with the only true democracy in the Middle East. The fact is they are driven by greed and expediency – the need for oil and the opportunity to break into big commercial markets. God is watching!

Of all peoples, the wider Church should know and recognize the hand of God upon Israel’s modern-day restoration and its biblical obligations to the Jewish people. After all, they have God’s Word and are the recipients of Israel’s “spiritual things” (Romans 15:27). Sadly, much of the Christian world has gone the way of apostasy and, as in the past, has renewed its antagonism and attack against Israel. The “corporate Jew” is now the target of the new manifestation of anti-Semitism! Much of this attack is pursued under the guise of a so-called commitment to truth and justice. The fact is, in most cases, they have thrown their lot in with radical Islamic elements whose agenda is the destruction of Israel. We can only hope and pray that the Church will turn from its wicked ways and wake up as the “days of testing” are upon us.

Malcolm Hedding serves as ICEJ Executive Director and travels extensively teaching on Israel and the days in which we live.

“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.” Revelation 3:10
Ambassadors for Israel
ICEJ Young Adults get a unique ‘hands-on’ Israel experience

By Taylor Innes

The ICEJ’s Grafted young adults program hosted its annual “Summer Hands-On Tour” of Israel with great success in July. Team members from 13 different nations converged for 11 days of visiting Bible sites, learning about modern Israel, and engaging in practical service projects to assist the various communities of the Holy Land.

The group included young Christian adults from Australia, the Bahamas, Canada, Finland, Holland, Ireland, South Africa and the USA, among other countries. The tour kicked off by partnering with CBN’s Operation Blessing in Haifa to paint the home of a young Russian mother who miraculously escaped from the clutches of an organized crime ring trafficking in women.

While in the North, the team also played soccer, volleyball and held several arts-and-crafts activities with Sudanese refugee children at a women’s shelter in Haifa. They also cleaned and painted parts of the shelter. Later, Grafted would play games and sports and do face paintings with more Sudanese refugee children when they ventured south to the Red Sea resort of Eilat.

During the tour, the Grafted team also managed to relax and enjoy Israel, including snorkeling in the Red Sea, riding camels in the desert, floating in the Dead Sea, boating on the Sea of Galilee and even kayaking down the Jordan River, where some were also baptized.

This year, the summer tour also featured a visit to Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem for briefings by the office of Inter-Religious Affairs.

“One of the purposes of Grafted is to educate and equip young adults around the world to be ambassadors for Israel. So this was a very significant part of our itinerary,” said Kasey Bar, a coordinator for Grafted. “We hope it will be the beginning of a continuing partnership with the Foreign Ministry to help raise up the next generation of advocates for the only functioning democracy in the Middle East.”

“During the tour I have really felt the pain of isolation which Israelis sense and the attitude other nations have against them, and that has given me an even greater heart for Israel,” said Laura from Ireland.

“It’s important to educate the people that may not be up on current affairs and to help them understand the fight against the delegitimization of Israel,” added Mark from Canada.

Yet the highlight for many on the tour was a visit to the AMCHA center for Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem. There they danced and sang for a group of Holocaust survivors and later gave out roses and chocolates along with some warm hugs and smiles. Many of the survivors were moved by the love and care expressed by the Grafted team, and responded by recounting parts of their life stories – which is not always easy to do.

“I think it was significant for them to tell us their stories,” said Christine from Canada. “We did not ask them to share but they wanted us to know. As painful as it is for them to relive, they felt strongly to give us what we need to take back to our homes, churches, schools and places of work.”

“I also think it was significant that they trusted us with these very personal memories. I don’t think it was something that they would just tell somebody passing on the street. They knew we cared for them and had the passion to go back and tell others. They had a sense of urgency as well, since they know that time is passing them by.”

Grafted also helped with gardening in an orphanage in one of Jerusalem’s ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods, where they capped the day’s work by planting a symbolic olive tree of Christian-Jewish friendship.

“The book of Romans talks about how the olive tree symbolizes the ‘grafting in’ of Christians into the natural tree of Israel and how Judaism is the root that God used to bring forth His salvation to the world,” said Christina from the Bahamas. “It shows the unity
that Christians have with Jews because the Lord provided us with everything through them.”

Towards the end of the tour, the group teamed up with some local Christian ministries to pick up over a hundred bags of trash in the Arab quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem.

“Through this cleaning project, I felt Grafted was expressing a kindred love and appreciation for the Arab community,” said Travis from Australia. “Grafted has been a real eye-opener for me to modern Israel and the need of the people for reconciliation and a future.”

Sybille, a Grafted intern from Switzerland, recalled that, “after the cleaning, we were walking and this Muslim woman came up and looked at us and said ‘todah rabah’ (‘thank you very much’ in Hebrew). That was just wonderful!”

“I had always wanted to volunteer with Grafted because I love Israel,” added Sybille. “God has put His people on my heart for a long time and it’s so great to be here and to do all the different projects to serve them.”

“Before the tour, I was spiritually in a desert with God,” Elizabeth from the USA admitted. “But I always had a dream to come to Israel and see where Jesus walked and have the Bible come alive. One night in the desert, after listening to the story of Abraham and Sarah while sitting in a Bedouin tent, God really spoke to me and I felt His presence for the first time in a long time, right there in the desert!”

“This trip has been so much more than I thought it would be!”

Taylor Innes is a staff writer with the ICEJ Media team in Jerusalem
By now, most of us are well aware that the spread of Islam has caused a fair amount of controversy in America. As Muslims across the nation seek to claim strategic locations for their mosques, Americans are being divided, and in some instances, even turning against each other with opposing responses.

The arguments on both sides carry much validity. Those opposed cite the negative outcomes a mosque may produce, be it to offend people as with those who lost loved ones on 9/11, or to bring a counter-cultural influence into the community that may even affect such rights as those enjoyed by most women in western societies.

Those supporting the mosques say the issue should be reduced to a simple matter of freedom of religion as protected by the US Constitution.

Each side also has weaknesses in their point of view. Those against the mosques run the risk of being called bigots, and of inviting upon themselves the kind of religious censure that has ensnared the United Kingdom as it has attempted to rein in religious radicals with a so-called even hand.

Those in favor of the mosques ignore the danger that Islam has the potential to deliver since the religion is not easily divorced from its oppressive political system and Shariah law.

We know that there are a lot of Christians who understand the danger of encroaching Sharia and are therefore willing to take a stand against it, but who are the people on the other side?

Murfreesboro has been the scene of a much-publicized debate over the plans of its small Muslim congregation to build a rather large 52,000-square-foot Islamic Center. Being local to the town, the US Branch of the ICEJ has had the opportunity to follow events in Murfreesboro first hand. Early in the beginning of the debate, a group in support of the Mosque was formed called Middle Tennesseans for Religious Freedom. It was later exposed that the founders of this group were in fact members of a socialist/Marxist revolutionary organization called Solidarity that’s based in Detroit.

One immediately wonders why liberal socialists would be out supporting a religion that in many ways has the potential to remove the individual rights for which they believe they are fighting. For instance, Solidarity claims to defend the rights of women and homosexuals, but both of those groups are targeted for severe discrimination under Islam.

So, what is the draw, what makes these people support the rights of Muslims, possibly to their own detriment, especially when they are never seen supporting the rights of other religious groups, such as the thousands of persecuted Christians around the globe?
What unites these groups is not so much what they are for, but what they are against, and that is, the Church and Israel. While Solidarity is quite openly biased in its support for the Palestinian cause against Israel, what has also been eye opening is that their key people involved in the debate over the Murfreesboro mosque are also blatantly hostile towards the Church, seeing Christianity as more of a threat in the US than Islam.

A recent YouTube video featuring Solidarity member, Jase Short, who founded Middle Tennesseans for Religious Freedom, shows him stating that “the real theocratic threat in the United States is obviously coming from the Christian right.” He goes on to liken this “threat” to the Nazis, claiming that it was a “powerful right-wing movement” in Germany with 25% support from the Christian right that “picked on” the small minority of Jews in the country. Despite the multiple inaccuracies of his position (the Nazis were in fact left-wing socialist-nationalists), what’s interesting to note is that people like Jase Short think the Church is too powerful in America, that it needs to be brought down to size. They’re also willing to promote Islam as some kind of counter-balance to the influence of Christianity in this nation.

Regarding Islam, one doesn’t need to dig far to understand that this religion sees both Christians and Jews as the enemy, to be conquered and reduced to Dhimmis. No country in the world has been the target of more Islamic aggression than the tiny state of Israel, while, according to the current Open Doors World Watch List which ranks Christian persecution around the globe, eight of the top ten countries in that list share one thing in common; they all have Islamic governments.

As Christ-followers, it is incumbent upon us to not only discern the spirit behind both Islam and the people supporting it, but also to apply that good old phrase, “What would Jesus do?” The word says that we battle not against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities. This is not to say that we shouldn’t be politically active, but it is to recognize that the battle will not ultimately be won by a powerful protest in the town square, but rather by powerful prayer in the back room of a church. The word also says that if God is for us, who can stand against us, and that no weapon forged against us will prevail.

If the church is strong in prayer, and strong in the Spirit, nothing can withstand it. The gates of hell cannot prevail against it. The spirit that drives Islam, and those that want to see it prosper at the expense of the Church, is what ultimately unites these people. We mustn’t forget that the Spirit that fills our lives is stronger.

This is the time to call on the Lord, for our churches, our leaders, our cities, our nation and for Israel. We cannot defeat the enemy in our own strength. It is the Lord who will bring the victory.

Finally, we must have the heart of Christ for the lost, understanding that He also died for Muslims so they too could be freed from the evil that dominates their lives.

May God give us grace and strength in these days. ☀️

Daryl Hedding serves as ICEJ Strategic Development Director and lives with his wife Katja and children in Murfreesboro, TN.

A Lifetime of Trees
Project Update

In August, the Jewish National Fund hosted the family of former ICEJ-Germany national director Christian Stephan for the dedication of a new forest near Beersheva which was planted thanks to the special efforts and generosity of the Stephens and other members of the extended ICEJ family in Germany.

The new “Christian Stephan Forest” in Lehavim is now part of the larger “German Forest” in the northern Negev which the JNF established in 1991 and currently contains over half a million trees.

Christian Stephan had been raising funds for planting trees in Israel ever since he became involved with the Christian Embassy in 1980. But when he was celebrating his 80th birthday some six years ago, many of his friends wanted to mark the occasion by offering to contribute towards a special forest in Israel named in his honour. The effort eventually raised 50,000 Euros to cover the planting of some 5,000 trees, and three generations of the Stephan family came to Israel last month for a special dedication of the new forest.

“A quarter of my life has been devoted to helping and loving Israel and the Jewish people through the ICEJ,” Christian Stephan told the gathering. “Trees are life and Israel needs us. So I am so happy I could do it for many years.”

In a gesture aimed at continuing the family legacy, Stephan asked his two young grandsons to hand over the check to the JNF at the dedication ceremony.

“Thank you in the name of the JNF but mainly in the name of our children and grandchildren that your grandchildren gave this check,” said JNF representative Jana Marcus-Natanova. “This forest is for those who are going to be playing and living here hopefully for many generations to come.” ☀️

Support Aid Projects in Israel
www.icejusa.org/aid
This year's Feast of Tabernacles celebration will be streaming live from Jerusalem with special guest Reinhard Bonnke, a man whose life has touched millions with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Experience anointed worship, praise and teaching streamed directly to your computer from the City of the King.

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