FEAST 2015

THOUSANDS GATHER IN JERUSALEM
Dear friends,

The ICEJ’s Feast of Tabernacles has always been celebrated with a prophetic view towards the fulfilment of Zechariah 14:16 when all the nations will come up to Jerusalem to worship the Lord during Sukkot. But this year we were all filled with wonder when a delegation of 15 people from the tiny island of Rotuma arrived. Led by the pastor of this small atoll in the middle of the Pacific Ocean with only 2,000 residents, they literally came from the ends of the earth to celebrate the Feast with over 80 other nations!

This year’s Feast was another great and blessed event with exuberant worship, a strong presence of God and many stimulating teaching seminars. I hope you enjoy the Feast report in this issue and, of course, I look forward to celebrating with you in Jerusalem next year!

No sooner had we ended the Feast than we found ourselves in the midst of another wave of violence. Some are calling it a Third Intifada. Every day, Jews are being attacked on the street. This crisis is different to what we experienced last Summer during the wave of rockets that came from Gaza upon Israel. Then, except in the direct vicinity of Gaza, the sirens gave a 60-120 second warning of an incoming attack. Now, an attack can strike at any time, and it could come from a person walking beside you in the street. One of the top generals recently stated that Israelis are more afraid today then in past conflicts.

For many Israelis it is a great comfort to know the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is here in this time of need. Just a few days ago, we were asked by the Municipality of Jerusalem to provide life-saving vests for first-responders who serve on the streets of Jerusalem and need protection from knives and bullets. We immediately agreed to help. We are also partnering with trauma treatment centres across the country to assist victims of terror and their immediate families.

It is in times like this when our work is particularly meaningful to Israelis. The book of Job declares: “To him who is afflicted, kindness should be shown by his friend...” (Job 6:14).

Please stand with us in this unique season as we show our kindness and friendship to Israel.

May the Lord bless you out of Zion,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

CREDITS
Executive Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler
International Director Juha Ketola
Editor/Communications Director Estera Wieja
Graphic Design/Illustrator Peter Ecenroad, Patricia Ecenroad
Copy Editor Julaine Stark
Administration David van der Walt, Wim van der Zande
Photography ICEJ Staff & Branches, IStock, AP, Wikimedia, Getty Images, Reuters, Jani Salokangas

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INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM
P.O. Box 1192, Jerusalem • 910102, ISRAEL

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COVER PHOTO:
Thousands gather for the 2015 Feast at the Pais Arena

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By Dr. Jürgen Bühler
Nevertheless a crack was left in the foundation of the Protestant availability of the Bible would transform everything.

far more influential was the fact that he placed the Bible back into the hands of believers in their own native language. The widespread reforms that dramatically changed medieval Christianity; far

Much of our Western code of ethics and culture is based upon the reformatory forces sweeping Europe from the 16th to 18th centuries. It impacted even to a larger extent the founding of the United States of America. It is hard to underestimate Martin Luther’s impact on the Church. It was not just his theological reforms that dramatically changed medieval Christianity; far more influential was the fact that he placed the Bible back into the hands of believers in their own native language. The widespread availability of the Bible would transform everything.

REFORMATION IN THE CHURCH
The Church has also gone through various phases of reformation and rediscovering old truths. One of them was the rediscovery of the call to world missions. For centuries the Church did not have a big vision for the lost and often uncivilised tribes of the world. It changed when Moravian brethren and leaders of Pietism such as Philip Jacob Spener and Count Nicolaus von Zinzendorf left their home countries to become missionaries in far-off lands. They became reformers as they returned the vision for world missions to the Church.

By the end of the 18th century, missionaries like William Carey would leave for India, Hudson Taylor would establish the “China Inland Mission”, and David Livingstone would take Christianity to the unmapped heart of Africa. By the mid-19th century, world missions had become part of the Church. Today, it is hard to imagine a local church without an outreach program.

THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION
Much of our Western code of ethics and culture is based upon the reformatory forces sweeping Europe from the 16th to 18th centuries. It impacted even to a larger extent the founding of the United States of America. It is hard to underestimate Martin Luther’s impact on the Church. It was not just his theological reforms that dramatically changed medieval Christianity; far more influential was the fact that he placed the Bible back into the hands of believers in their own native language. The widespread availability of the Bible would transform everything.

Nevertheless a crack was left in the foundation of the Protestant Reformation. Many theologians taught that God had abandoned the Jews, who were now an accursed people. They insisted that the Church had replaced Israel and there was no national destiny left for the Jews. Any contrary outlook was brutally silenced. In 1589, one of the first clergyman to write openly about the promised restoration of Israel, Francis Kett, was burned at the stake for his beliefs.

NEW REFORMATION
Today, I see another wave of reformation coming to the Church, and it has to do with Israel. The early Church’s understanding of God’s enduring purposes for Israel and of our connection to the Jewish people must be brought back to mainstream Christianity today. For 1900 years no one asked: “How do we deal with the restoration of the Jews back to their ancient homeland?” But today this question has to be asked. The coming years will surely be some of the most exciting times in Church history, as we are in a season of unprecedented restoration for the Jewish people.

With a few exceptions, most churches in the past centuries had little understanding of Israel or the Jewish people. I believe in the coming decades, there will hardly be a church which does not have a connection to Israel, and a budget to ‘bless Israel’ will be equally as natural for a church as their mission’s budget.

INSPIRED BY THE BIBLE
If we look at how the Apostles taught Gentile churches around the world about their relationship to the Jewish people, we will find that the Scriptures are quite clear in teaching how the Church should relate to Israel today. Apostle Paul declares to the church in Rome: “Do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.” (Romans 11:18) That means Gentile Christians should not reject or ridicule the Jewish origins of their faith, but nourish them as one would nourish the roots of a tree.

The New Testament epistles strongly underline the eternal calling of Israel. Paul made it clear to Gentile believers that the Jewish people provided everything necessary for our relationship with God. The Bible is a Jewish book, we serve a Jewish Messiah and it was Jewish apostles who spread the Gospel to the Gentile world. Paul thus declares that as Gentile believers we are debtors to Israel.

RECONNECTING CHURCH WITH ISRAEL
There needs to be a reformation which reconnects the Church with its Jewish roots, just as the vision for world missions was renewed within the Church. We can no longer afford to ignore Israel. This needs to be taught from every pulpit and become an integral part of the activity, prayers and giving of every church. It is a time of reformation! Make sure you are a part of this historic journey! 😊
The Bible is full of stories of people who were great reformers,” declared the Executive Director of International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ), Dr. Jürgen Bühler as he opened the 2015 Feast of Tabernacles Celebration at the Pais Arena in Jerusalem.

From Old Testament kings like Hezekiah and Josiah, to post-exilic leaders such as Ezra and Nehemiah, reformation is characterized by a call to “return to the Word of God,” echoed ICEJ International Director Rev. Juha Ketola in addressing the gathering of some 5,000 Christians from 85 nations the next day.

“It is a call to return the people back to God.”

It has been almost 500 years since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of All Saints’ Church in Wittenberg and launched the Protestant Reformation in Europe. Like all the great reformers that followed, Luther was compelled by a belief in the preeminence of the Scriptures, a belief tightly bound up in the cry of sola scriptura – faith in the Word of God alone. In the centuries that followed this conviction not only brought the Bible into the hands of ordinary people in Europe, but also birthed the explosion in Christian mission that took the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Today, that cry still echoes around the world as the focus of evangelical Christianity has shifted to the ‘global South,’ Dr. Bühler explained to a gathering of Israeli and international journalists on Tuesday morning. “The average Christian in the world today,” he said, “is not found in North America or Europe, but in Beijing, China; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Lagos, Nigeria...
or Manila, Philippines. If you travel to these nations, there is no question that Christianity is the largest and fastest growing religion on earth.”

The result? Hundreds of millions of non-Western Christians who recognize that they have a “natural connection to the Jewish people,” Bühler added; a connection based upon the clear testimony of the Bible. The same Scriptures that the sixteenth century reformers first made available in the everyday language of ordinary Europeans, is now producing a new reformation: a transformation in the way the global Church relates to Israel.

“This is the reformation that stands before us now,” proclaimed Rev. Malcolm Hedding, the former ICEJ Executive Director as the 2015 Feast of Tabernacles drew closer to a climax on Wednesday evening. “The restoration of Israel is evidence of God working in the nations… preparing the world for the greatest event in all of history - the return of Jesus of Nazareth.” Why? Because there “can be no reformation without the Cross!”

“Reformation makes changes in something in order to improve it,” challenged Angus Buchan, the South African farmer-turned-preacher earlier Wednesday morning as he issued a powerful call to personal repentance.

“I’m just a farmer, so I don’t know much,” he observed jokingly. But one thing is clear, he continued, “Making a difference starts today with you and me.”

“If your faith is costing you nothing, it’s worth nothing!” Buchan thundered “Reformation requires change!”
EN GEDI CELEBRATION

If you have never stood on the shores of the Dead Sea on the first night of Succot, it is hard to comprehend what you are witnessing: the most diverse annual assembly of Christians anywhere in the world. Someone asked: “How do you keep everyone on the same page?” “We don’t!” came the simple, yet honest response. “We simply invite them to come and each year for 36 years, they’ve come!”

Suddenly the music swelled again as the worship team led the gathering in a new version of a very ancient creed: “We believe in the crucifixion; we believe in the virgin birth; we believe in the resurrection, and He’s coming back to earth!”

There was our answer. We believe! Many tribes, many tongues, many nations. One Lord. One God. One Bible. One Creed. And a shared love for Israel and the Jewish people. The 36th Christian Celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles began with one simple declaration – that in Jesus we can all become One.
The gathering at the Garden Tomb did not include any big screens or colorful lights, there was no dance team. And yet, as the worship team invited the pilgrims to join them in singing, the place was filled with a tangible sense of the presence of God.

“God filled the skies with stars,” cried Saleem Shalash, a local Arab pastor from Nazareth, “He filled the whole earth with His creation. But He left the tomb empty!”

Accompanying Shalash in serving communion, pastor Daniel Yahav read from Psalm 133, a psalm that declares the blessing of the unity of the people of God. “It is only possible because of what Yeshua did for us on the Cross,” he declared. “In Christ we are one.”

As communion ended, Brother Yun - a former leader of the underground church in China - shared his miraculous story. Persecuted for his faith, tortured and imprisoned, Yun is still able to talk about his experiences with a smile. “I got a vision from the Lord that China will become a village of the Gospel, so when the police asked me where I was from, I told them – Village of the Gospel! They couldn’t find it on the map.”
PARADE OF NATIONS
Since its inception in 1980 the Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles, sponsored by the ICEJ, has been a vital and central part of our ministry of comforting Israel (Isaiah 40:1). Pilgrims come from around the world to worship the Lord, pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and to bless Israel. The Parade of Nations on the first night in the Pais Arena is our time to acknowledge the many nations that are represented at this special event, which are a foreshadowing of the fulfillment of Zechariah 14 prophecy.

VISIT FROM THE PRESIDENT
On Tuesday evening at the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles we were honoured to host Israeli President Reuven Rivlin who thanked the Christian pilgrims for their ongoing support for Israel, and also quoted the prophesy of Zechariah recalling the great return of the Jews to the land of Israel to worship the Lord together with the nations.

“Dear friends,” Rivlin said. “Thank you. Thank you for coming up from year to year, to worship the King, the God of Hosts. To celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. Thank you for standing with us! Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they that [do], be blessed!”
PRAYER AT THE FEAST

Every day the conference program started with prayer and worship in the main auditorium. This important part of the daily schedule, well attended by the Feast participants, was led by Rev. Mosy Madugba, Director of the ICEJ-Nigeria. It was a blessed time of drawing near to the heart of the Father and giving Him praise. This prayer time was also an opportunity to bring up the over six thousand prayer requests that had been sent to ICEJ prior and during the Feast of Tabernacles. The leaders and participants lifted them up to God’s throne in this special time of intercession.

NEHEMIAH AWARD

The Prophet Nehemiah, who was a determined leader and above all a man of God, spearheaded the return of the Jewish people from the Babylonian exile to Israel. The book named after him in the Bible records his accomplishments in rebuilding the fallen walls of Jerusalem and leading his people in spiritual renewal.

The ICEJ has established the Nehemiah Award to honour outstanding biblical Christian Zionist figures at the Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles each year.

This year’s Nehemiah Award was bestowed upon Drs. Jay and Meridel Rawlings, in recognition of their lifetime record of excellence in promoting and defending Israel and in teaching the Word of God through a variety of media. Forty years ago the Rawlings’ set about producing documentaries telling Israel’s story, which over the past four decades have gained them a worldwide audience, from Jewish and Christian communities alike. The ICEJ greatly admires and commends their dedication and excellence in this work.
SPECIAL GUESTS AT THE FEAST

During the Feast, a daily program of seminars and teaching is offered and each evening concludes with a celebration known for outstanding musical and dance performances. The in-depth sessions bring balanced teaching from carefully selected teachers, scholars, and public figures. This year the subjects and themes were presented by many notable speakers, among them: Cindy Jacobs who is a strong prophetic voice in today’s world, Angus Buchan – South African farmer-turned-evangelist joining us for the third time, John Francis from London, UK whose impactful ministry continues to grow in this famous European capital, and Jane Hansen Hoyt, the CEO of Aglow International.

The praise and worship was again led by an international team of singers, musicians, dancers and other artists under the leadership of Ray Ramirez from the ICEJ. Special musical guests included an award-winning singer from Brazil, Ana Paula Valadao Bessa, and an acclaimed international worship leader and music producer, Eddie James.
FEAST of TABERNACLES

PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

All the Families of the Earth

...and in you all the families of the Earth shall be blessed.

GEN 12:3

16 - 21 OCTOBER 2016

ICEJ INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM
2015 EIN GEDI CELEBRATION
Rene Terra Nova DVD

The first evening of the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles 2015 took place in the Judean desert, at Ein Gedi by the Dead Sea. The recording includes the full program: the worship segment and the main speaker of the night.

20 USD + SHIPPING/HANDLING

2015 OPENING NIGHT IN JERUSALEM
Dr. Jürgen Bühler DVD

ICEJ’s Executive Director Dr. Jürgen Bühler was the main speaker on the first night in Jerusalem of the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles 2015, explaining this year’s theme: Reformation.

12 USD + SHIPPING/HANDLING

UP TO ZION CALENDAR

The 16 month English-Hebrew Calendar (September 2015 - December 2016) contains: all major Biblical and Israeli holidays marked and explained in a special reference chart, references for all weekly scripture portions (Torah and Haftarah) with suggested New Testament readings, beginning and ending times for Sabbath, and more. Produced and printed in Israel!

15 USD + SHIPPING/HANDLING
REFORMATION FEAST 2015

INDIVIDUAL SEMINARS DVD
CHOOSE A SEMINAR SPEAKER TO ORDER INDIVIDUAL RECORDINGS:
Juha Ketola, Cindy Jacobs, Peter Tsukahira, David Elms, John Francis, Angus Buchan, Claudio Freidzon, Vishal Mangalwadi, Chad Holland, Malcolm Hedding, Dennis Balcombe, Jane Hansen, Derek Frank, & Eitan Shishkoff

INDIVIDUAL DVDS
12 USD + SHIPPING/HANDLING

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Full Set 49.99 USD

ICEJ SHOMER PENDANT
Shomer is the Hebrew word for watchman. The artistically designed replica of the Zion Mule Corps’ insignia includes an engraving on the back with the scripture from Isaiah 62:6 in Hebrew and the initials of the ICEJ. Gold plated.
30 USD + SHIPPING/HANDLING

THE JERUSALEM COMPASS
The Jerusalem compass was developed in Jerusalem and is patented in the US. Instead of pointing north, it points only in the direction of Jerusalem from any point on the globe. Fashioned from pure solid brass, the lid is embossed with a Jewish Star of David and the words "Jerusalem" in Hebrew and English.
39 USD + SHIPPING/HANDLING
The flight was conceived and organized at the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem’s (ICEJ) National Directors’ meeting in Finland earlier that year. The ICEJ was the first organization to begin the aliyah work while others were still praying and thinking how to help. By the end of the 1990s, the ICEJ had sponsored 53 full airplanes and brought more than 15,000 Olim home.

In 1989 the Soviet Union did not have diplomatic relations with Israel and there were no direct flights between the two countries. Dr. Ulla Järvillehto, a medical doctor and member of the Finnish parliament, sought official permission from the government of Finland and Israel to bring the Russian Jews to Israel through her country. Ulla became the founder of the ICEJ branch in Finland, and over the years worked tirelessly to establish and maintain the Finnish transit.

THE FINNISH TRANSIT
By March 10, 1990 the Finnish Aliyah route was officially opened with the approval of both governments, and it has remained open since then, even when other routes closed down during the Gulf War in 1991. For 25 years buses have been leaving St. Petersburg early in the morning for Finland, to bring Jewish families to Christian homes in Finland for three days and three nights. The Finnish believers take good care of them and blessed them in many ways. Israeli officials have remarked that most Olim arrive in Israel very tired and worn out, with an exception of the ones who come by way of Finland. They land in Tel Aviv rested, happy and full of optimism.

To date, about 117,000 Jewish people have been helped somewhere on their journey home by the ICEJ. More than 45 million dollars have been spent on bringing God’s chosen people home. Today the Finnish route is very active once again, as a result of the Russian economy suffering from the effects of low oil prices and the fallout from the Ukrainian Civil War.

The work continues with Jews from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Uzbekistan and the Baltic countries. Just as in the times of the Soviet outpouring, the ICEJ has responded to requests for help. In effect, the Finnish route has risen to a 10-year high and Russian Aliyah has more than doubled in recent years.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS
My first visit to Russia was an amazing and eye-opening experience. I got off the airplane in Moscow just three months after the official end of the Soviet Union on December 31st 1991 – nearly 25 years ago. There seemed to be a shortage of light bulbs back then. Moscow was a very dark place. Even the cars used only their parking lights at night. The stores did not have much food and the breakfasts in our hotels were quite meager.

By October 1992 I was living in Russia full-time. At every opportunity, I spoke to Jewish people about Israel. Most of them
THROUGH THE DECADES

1980  ICEJ Founded
1989  The first Soviet Jews make aliyah through Finland.
1990  ICEJ sponsors the first of 53 full airplane charter aliyah flights.
1990  ICEJ Finland organizes the Finnish Exodus Committee, which would bring more than 20,000 Russian Jews to Israel.
1994  ICEJ establishes the Raoul Wallenberg Center in Budapest, Hungary, as a hub for Aliyah from Eastern Europe.
1996  St. Petersburg office established by the ICEJ.
2000  The first Chinese Jews make aliyah through Finland.
2003  Russian Jews assisted making aliyah from North America.
2001  An ICEJ absorption center for new immigrants is established in Jerusalem - "Beit Hatikva".
2005  Russian Jews assisted making aliyah from Germany.
2006  ICEJ reaches 100,000 mark (of individuals assisted in the aliyah process).
2006  ICEJ begins work in Belarus.
2009  ICEJ begins sponsoring aliyah flights from Sweden.
2010  ICEJ sponsors first aliyah flight for French Jews.
2010  ICEJ begins work in the Baltic counties of Latvia and Lithuania.
2012  ICEJ begins sponsoring flights of the Bnei Menashe from India.
2014  ICEJ begins supporting aliyah from Ukraine.
2015  ICEJ begins aliyah ground operations in Ukraine.

• **OVER 117,000** Jewish people were brought to Israel by the ICEJ
• **25 YEARS** of Christian support of aliyah and direct involvement of ICEJ
• **MORE THAN 45 MILLION USD** contributed to bringing Jews home

were already in the process of getting ready to go, but still there were some who did not even want to think about it.

In the Northwest region of Russia the ICEJ team began to do advertisements in remote and unreached cities. Radio, TV and newspaper advertising were still relatively cheap in Russia and through this effort many people became involved. We advertised the route through Finland that was still open and there were many Finnish Christians waiting to help the Russian Jews on their way home.

**ALIYAH EXPANSION**

Today the majority of Jews come to Israel from the West. In the past 12 years, since 2003, more than 5,000 of them have been assisted by the ICEJ on some part their journey home. They move to Israel from North and South America, as well as Europe. In 2010, the ICEJ expanded the Aliyah from the West program to include sponsored flights from Sweden and France. In both countries the rising tide of Muslim anti-Semitism was the reason for this assistance.

The aliyah numbers have increased rapidly over the past few years due to wars and anti-Semitic aggression around the world. The ICEJ is leading the way in helping many more Jews come home to the land of their fathers. Please join the ICEJ in responding to this urgent need!

Donate today!  www.icej.org/aliyah
This summer has been pivotal for the work of ICEJ in Ukraine. New connections have been established as we prepare to help more Jewish people come home to Israel. It is impossible to predict how the situation will develop. Thus ICEJ-Ukraine is preparing for multiple scenarios, bringing help and protection to the Jewish people wherever they can, and assisting in their process of Aliyah.

This year ICEJ is also proud to introduce Dr. Grygorii Komendant as the new ICEJ Representative in Ukraine. Dr. Komendant, a recognized leader in the Christian community of Ukraine, is also the president of the local Bible Society.

Due to the dire circumstances, the ICEJ is renting a campsite to host Jewish refugees from conflict zones. One of the refugee camps will open in Irpen, a small town 35 km from Kiev, Ukraine’s capital. Estimated cost per person is 20 USD per day, which will include three meals a day and accommodation in nice, clean rooms. The facility can house between 100-150 refugees.

“War is not like you see it on TV,” shared Sergey Knyshenko, a local pastor. “Everything is much worse... the fear is so strong that you cannot sleep for weeks. It is hard to talk about those events. They left a mark on my mind. I was twice wounded and spent weeks in the hospital.”

Today Knyshenko works with Dr. Komendant on the ICEJ team in Ukraine, and has been using even his private resources to help the Jewish people in the country.

“For many years he has been leading seminars on the topic of Israel at churches and various ministries in the Kiev region, and his heart is overcome by concern for the Jewish people in his home country.”

Ukraine is continuously in need of our prayers. Pray for safety of the Jewish people and everyone involved in ICEJ work, including the process of Aliyah. Support our pioneer work in Ukraine at this essential stage. Donate to this worthy cause to sponsor the Ukrainian Jewry as they make Aliyah to Israel! Visit www.icej.org/ukraine
ICEJ-NETHERLANDS BLESSES NEW IMMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL

The ICEJ-Netherlands branch brought together almost 700 Dutch supporters of Israel this summer at their conference titled Reformation – corresponding with the theme of this year’s Feast of Tabernacles.

According to the leaders of the conference, God brought healing and renewal to the relationship between Israel and the Church in the Netherlands, as well as to the individuals gathered.

“In the [European] news you won’t hear too many positive things about Israel,” shared Jacob Keegstra, the National Director of ICEJ-Netherlands. “People came to this [event] because there is a hunger to know more about God’s plans for Israel and about the situation in the Middle East.”

Apart from powerful teachings, attendees enjoyed times of worship and even dancing. “During the meetings you could feel the presence of the Lord. At one point the worship leaders could not continue singing... the auditorium was filled with the Spirit of the Lord,” Keegstra said.

At the event, an offering was collected for an absorption center in Israel which helps new immigrants settle in their Jewish homeland. Together these faithful supporters of ICEJ collected 18,000 Euro. Thank you for being a part of this life-changing ministry!

WHEN JEWS COME HOME
ICEJ supports new immigrants after arriving in Israel
BY AARON HECHT AND BIRTE SCHOLZ

During the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles two busloads of pilgrims took the road south out of Jerusalem to visit the ancient biblical city of Beersheva and an absorption center, one of twenty-six facilities throughout the country where new arrivals of Jewish immigrants are assisted.

“The goal of every absorption center is to integrate new immigrants into Israeli society as quickly as possible so they can begin building their future here and contribute to the country, which they usually arrive here very much wanting to do,” said Nicole Yoder of ICEJ. “Some groups require more assistance than others depending on where they’re coming from; culturally, socially, economically and in terms of education and other factors.”

The pilgrims also heard from some of the new immigrants who are being housed at the center in Beersheva while going through the absorption process. The immigrants spoke of hardships, especially missing their family and friends. Nevertheless they said with confidence they had no doubts or regrets about their decision to move to Israel.

Yedidiah, a young immigrant from Colombia, said he had a comfortable life in the land of his birth, but felt he should make Aliyah. “I found the roots in my life which led me to come back to Israel,” he explained.

ICEJ is committed to continuing this work, which has always been one of the most important elements in the restoration and building of the State of Israel. Please consider making a contribution to this vital work today.

TO SUPPORT OUR WORK WITH THE NEW IMMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL, MAKE A DONATION TODAY! VISIT: http://www.icej.org/aid/new-immigrant-assistance
THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM were stained with blood this October. Every day people were getting injured or killed in stabbing or shooting attacks. The hatred of the Oslo generation of Palestinian youngsters suddenly seemed to be unleashed in a most horrible way as teenagers were stabbed and parents were shot in front of their children.

The prophet Ezekiel calls it an “ancient hatred” (Eze 35:5) which is unleashed upon Israel in the last days. This hatred takes pleasure in the shedding of blood. It is a hatred which claims the ancient land of Israel was expropriated from the Jews and “has become our possession” (Eze 35:10; 36:2). This hatred is driven by demonic forces which seek to annihilate the Jewish people, and it is directed against the purposes of God.

This uprising is not just a civil unrest. Its goal is to frustrate the plans and purposes of God for Israel and the entire human race. The Palestinians have in their hearts to continue fighting until the Palestinian State encompasses the entire Land of Israel. It is a religious war directed against the God of Israel and what He is doing in this land.

As we witness this in Israel, we understand that these forces will not be overcome by physical force alone. Paul states: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12). And this is the main battle line. It is our prayers that will bring change. This is the reason we fast and intercede. Therefore I want to encourage you to pray for Israel in these days more than ever before.

The book of proverbs declares that “… a brother is born for adversity.” (Proverbs 17:17) It is in times like these our practical work is even more important than in times of peace. As Israel faces these strenuous times, it is our responsibility as Christians to care for those who became victims of this horrendous terror in the land of Israel. Our staff here in Jerusalem is reaching out to those who are affected by this wave of terror.

Join us in our effort to comfort the people of Israel – below you will find practical information on how you can stand with Israel at this difficult time.

We invite you to join us in a very tangible effort to comfort the people of Israel! The ICEJ is partnering with a therapeutic center in the land to help those affected by the unrest. Your donation can help specifically fund treatment of Psycho-trauma (commonly known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD), as well as support a range of educational and curative programs that help rebuild communities throughout the land of Israel. Since many of the families who need therapeutic interventions cannot afford the cost of therapy, the center is now offering group sessions.

You can help us meet this urgent need in Israel! Donate today! www.icej.org/aid/israel_in_crisis
Safety in the Streets of Jerusalem

The Jerusalem Municipality approached the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem with an opportunity to help purchase life-saving vests for their personnel. These are the servicemen and women who ensure that Jerusalem’s citizens and visitors can move safely throughout the city.

The vests will help protect those who watch out for our safety, such as security guards on the train, in the parks and around the important tourist sites in Jerusalem.

By partnering with the City of Jerusalem to protect its residents, we are showing the Israeli people that Christians are concerned about their safety. When Israel is in need, the ICEJ is among the first to help!

ICEJ to challenge EU on planned labelling law

The European Union is close to passing a law which would require certain Israeli products to be uniquely labelled. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem is taking steps to challenge this “labelling law” which, if passed, would brand the Jewish commerce originating from the West Bank. The ICEJ will approach in the coming weeks the European Parliament in Brussels with a special symposium at the EU Parliament to highlight pitfalls of such a law and propose an alternative approach.

Many businesses and companies in the State of Israel are places of proven coexistence between Jews and Arabs. This European labelling law may force Israeli companies to relocate elsewhere, resulting in the removal of these last places of peaceful co-existence in the Palestinian territories. The ICEJ together with some partnering organizations wish to present an alternative approach, that will ease the tensions between Israelis and Palestinians.

Please pray with us for this strategic gathering that will bring a voice to the European Parliament to help and benefit the decision makers in Brussels.
Last month in the ICEJ Report we recounted the plight of remaining Holocaust survivors who live in Israel. The warm atmosphere of the Haifa Home brings joy and healing to over 70 of these elderly Israelis on a daily basis.

Every resident of the home carries a unique story of survival. Though they are often traumatic, we listen to these stories and write them down, preserving them so future generations and other nations may learn of this dark chapter in history. As the world is being overcome by new waves of anti-Semitism, the survivors often ask us: Don’t let this happen again.

Bertold and Sofia are husband and wife living at the Haifa Home, but they came from very different worlds. Bertold was born in Romania 94 years ago. He was taken with his parents to a forced labor camp where they suffered hunger, freezing cold and diseases. His two brothers were killed. After the war he tried to rebuild his life, got married and had two children. Sadly his wife died of cancer years later.

Sofia’s family came from Kiev, Ukraine. Her father died in a forced labor camp, which left her mother a widow at the age of 24. They also suffered terribly from hunger, diseases and freezing cold. After the war they returned to their home in Kiev, but it had been completely destroyed by bombing so they had to start their life from scratch. Sofia married and immigrated to Israel in 1989. Her husband passed away when she was still young.

A few years later Bertold met Sofia here in Israel and, as they say, it was love at first sight. Bertold sighs: “Sofia is a gift from heaven!”

In their old age they were left with hardly any financial resources. “To our joy we are living now in the Haifa Home and we don’t feel alone,” Bertold explains. “We have someone helping us with our needs and problems, which is wonderful in our old age.”

When residents come to live in the Home, they are usually still independent and relatively healthy. However, since most of them are in their 80s and 90s, we eventually see a decline in their health, which can happen quite suddenly. Therefore we are always looking for creative solutions to meet the unique needs of each resident.

You can help us surround these survivors with security and care! The average monthly cost per resident is USD 2,250, but any contribution will help.

Make a contribution on our website: http://www.icej.org/haifa
Show Love at the End of the Year

With both Hanukkah and Christmas approaching, the ICEJ is looking to bring comfort and encouragement to the people of the Holy Land this holiday season. Once again, we will be reaching out to Arab Christian communities in the renowned biblical towns of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth. As many Christians around the world reflect on the beginning of Jesus’ life in these cities, we want to be there to remind the residents of their Redeemer.

In partnership with local Arab pastors and churches, the ICEJ will sponsor holiday gatherings and distribute Christmas gifts to many deserving Christian families. The children in Bethlehem and Nazareth will receive Christmas packages which include clothing and toys.

Your gift today will help us bless the needy Christian families in Jerusalem and Nazareth with food coupons, so they can celebrate together around a Christmas meal.

With your support, we will also bring holiday cheer to holocaust survivors and others in the Jewish community as they celebrate the joy and light of Hanukkah.

Please partner with us to bring comfort and joy to those who need our love and encouragement! Make an online donation today at: www.icej.org/holidays

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ENVISION

JOIN PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE FOR A TIME OF RENEWAL. TAKE A STEP BACK FROM YOUR DAILY ACTIVITIES AND COME TO JERUSALEM TO BE REFRESHED AND GAIN A NEW VISION FROM INSPIRING WORSHIP, TEACHING AND TIME OF MINISTRY. MEET WITH SOME OF THE KEY LEADERS IN ISRAEL AND BE A PART OF AN EXCLUSIVE PROGRAM FOR PASTORS AND LEADERS ONLY.

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Early Bird Registration available until October 15, 2015

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