A Modern Day Miracle

A LIYAH UPDATE
Dear friends,

I am very delighted to write you these lines, as I have recently returned to the office from my extended absence due to a serious health situation. Jesus fully restored me and I can continue in the work the Lord has called me to – praise and thanks be to God!

The last couple of months we as a family went through a difficult time that could have cost my life. But in all these weeks we felt the peace and sustenance of the Lord. We knew that friends around the world were praying for us and that gave us much strength and encouragement. On behalf of my wife, children and myself, thank you to all who stood with us! I know today more than ever that the Lord is mighty to save and His peace was with us even in the valley of the shadow of death. Again, thank you for all your past and ongoing prayers!

I also want to thank the staff and the board of the ICEJ for standing with us in such an amazing way! You are all a great family and we feel even more privileged to work with all of you! I especially want to thank our International Director Juha Ketola who took my place during my absence. He is a great friend and a leader who continued the work with excellence.

I am excited about the contents of this issue. The great work of God to return the Jewish people to their homeland is not over, but is now entering into a new phase of activity. The numbers of Jews making Aliyah continues to increase for many reasons: Growing anti-Semitism, economic challenges, and even wars. It is truly a privilege to participate in this great prophetic work, helping God’s people return to their homeland. Today the ICEJ is involved in many different countries helping Jews to come home.

The most exciting development is currently taking place in Ethiopia: The government of Israel has decided to bring the last 7000 Jews in Ethiopia back to Israel. They trace their presence there to the time of Queen Sheba when, according to Jewish tradition, parts of the tribe of Dan returned with the Queen to her homeland. The Jewish Agency asked ICEJ to assist in this historic project to bring them back after almost 3000 years. Please prayerfully consider standing with us in this unique and prophetic task.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

COVER PHOTO:
Ethiopian praying in Jerusalem after making Aliyah

FOR MAGAZINE ARCHIVES
visit www.icej.org/media/word-jerusalem
CONTENTS

A MODERN DAY MIRACLE

SONS OF MANASSEH COME HOME!

ETHIOPIAN ALIYAH

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

FROM JERUSALEM TO EPHESUS
Although Chinese, Ethiopian, Indian or European in physical appearance, Israeli Jews are united by their common roots, which trace back to the twelve sons of Jacob.
Today we are witnessing one of the greatest miracles of modern history: After more than 2000 years the Jews have returned to Israel, with increasing numbers returning every year. Never before in human history has a people been dispersed for centuries to the four corners of the earth, only to return to that same ancient homeland and re-establish an independent state. But it has happened and still is happening now.

In Israel, the return of the Jews back to Israel is referred to as ‘Aliyah’, which literally means “to ascend.” For Jews around the world, returning to Zion is considered a spiritual ascension since it is the spiritual centre for all Jews where the very presence of God dwells.

In biblical times, the ascension or traveling to Jerusalem was described as going “up to the Mountain of the Lord.” (Is 2:3) Psalms 120-134 are entitled songs of ascension, or in Hebrew “Shir Hama’alot,” and were sung when Jews made pilgrimage (or ascension) to Jerusalem three times each year during the high holidays.

**WAVES OF ALIYAH**

Today, Aliyah mainly refers to Jewish exiles returning back to the Promised Land. The very first wave of modern day Aliyah was Russian Jews fleeing the pogroms of Czarist Russia at the end of the 19th century. Prior to 1948, a total of five waves of Aliyah brought Jews to Israel; the fifth and final wave was Jews from central Europe escaping Nazi persecution.

Only three years after WWII on May 14, 1948, David Ben Gurion declared the state of Israel to be established and literally overnight Jews returning to Zion had a state of their own. As the Psalmist declared: “When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream... Then they said among the nations, ‘The LORD has done great things for them’. “ (Ps 126:1-2) It was indeed like a dream. The people who just escaped the gas chambers of Nazi Germany now had a homeland.

Once the State of Israel was established, Jews continued to arrive. Between 1949 and 1950, almost the entire Yemenite Jewish community was airlifted out of Aden. This operation of over 380 flights of British and American transport planes was referred to as ‘Knafei Nesharim’ or “On Eagles Wings”, referring to Isaiah 40:31: “But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles...”

Operations Ezra and Nehemiah in 1950-1951 airlifted some 125,000 Jews out of Iraq. The largest contingent, however, came from Morocco. By the mid-sixties, a massive influx of a quarter million Moroccan Jews returned to Israel, which today represents a strong cultural constituency within Israel.

Ethiopian Jews, who trace their ancestry back to the tribe of Dan, returned in two clandestine missions in 1984 (Operation Moses) and 1991 (Operation Salomon), and are still returning even today.

After 1989, when the Soviet Union’s iron curtain was torn down, more than a million Jews flooded into Israel from the “land of the North.” Many view this as a direct fulfilment of Isaiah 43:6: “I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth...” To this day the ICEJ continues to assist Aliyah from Russia, Ukraine and other other states.

As a result, modern day Israel is a fascinating mix of cultures. Once exiled to Europe, Africa, North and South America, China, India and other nations around the world, Jews adopted many of the cultures and ethnic features of their home countries. Although Chinese, Ethiopian, Indian or European in physical appearance, Israeli Jews are united by their common roots, which trace back to the twelve sons of Jacob. Every Passover they kindled the hope of celebrating Passover “next year in Jerusalem”; believing one day they would return to Zion. The Israeli government estimates that today more than half of the world’s Jewish population lives in Israel and numbers continue to grow. In the last year alone, more than 30,000 Jews arrived in Israel.

**AN OLD TRADITION**

The vast majority of evangelical Christians today see this return of the Jews back to their promised land as proof of God’s covenant faithfulness to Israel. This understanding is almost as old as the Reformation, started under Luther and Calvin. Unfortunately, the early reformers believed God was finished with the Jews. “The Jews cut off from themselves all hope of restoration to the mercy of God,” wrote John Calvin in his commentary on Ezekiel.

But as the reformation reached England, and the Puritan movement emerged from it, this began to change. Through studying Scripture, some believers realized that God was not finished with the Jews and His plan was clearly to restore them as a nation back to their homeland.

From the late 16th century onwards, countless books addressed the biblical restoration of the Jews, even inspiring the Pietist revival movements back on the continent, like the Moravians under Count Zinzendorf. It became such a prominent theme that great preachers like Charles Spurgeon frequently referred to it. In 1855, for example, during a sermon in London’s Metropolitan Tabernacle, Spurgeon declared: “I believe in the restoration of the Jews to their own land in the last days. I am a firm believer in the gathering in of the Jews at a future time. Before Jesus Christ shall come upon this earth again, the Jews shall be permitted to go to their beloved Palestine.”
JESUS ON ALIYAH

The return of the Jews back to their homeland is deeply rooted in scriptures and runs as a central theme through the Word of God. More than 70 passages promise their return to Eretz Israel. Beginning with the law of Moses (Deu 30:1-10), it is referred to by almost every prophetic writer and was even part of Israel’s songbook, the book of Psalms. The hope that God would “return the captives of Israel” became a part of the liturgy of Israel’s worship. In Psalm 147 the Psalmist declares, it is “good and pleasant to praise the Lord” and immediately explains why: “The Lord builds up Jerusalem and gathers the outcast of Israel.”

Jesus himself referred to a dispersal of the Jews from Israel; that Jerusalem would become desolate for a season “until the times of the gentiles are fulfilled” (Lk 21:24), indicating a future return of the Jews and a rebuilding of Jerusalem. As Jesus stood on the Mount of Olives, he wept over Jerusalem and foresaw its destruction (Mt 23:37-39; Lk 19:41-44). At the same time, he also anticipated a restored Jewish city whose inhabitants would someday welcome him with a Jewish Old Testament greeting “Baruch haba b’Shem Adonai” (Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord). “Baruch habal” (Blessed is he who comes!) is used even in modern Hebrew to say “welcome.” So Jesus, who foresaw dispersion, clearly expected a Jewish presence at His return, who would welcome Him in Hebrew.

UNFULFILLED PROPHECIES

The majority of references to Israel’s return from exile was written by the prophets. More than 50 prophetic passages refer to a return of the Jews from exile. Although many prophesies do refer to the Babylonian exile and return during the times of Cyrus, Nehemiah and Ezra (539-445 BC), most of them saw the return from Babylon as a partial fulfilment of even greater events foretold by Scripture.

For example, the prophet Amos declares: “I will plant them in their land, and no longer shall they be pulled up from the land I have given them, says the LORD your God” (Am 9:15). Isaiah
speaks to a restored Israel: “They shall inherit the land forever…” (Is 60:21) and Jeremiah declares: “…and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull them down, and I will plant them and not pluck them up” (Jer 24:6). These prophets clearly saw a great and final return to their land after which the Lord would never exile them again. Obviously this was not the case after the Babylonian return, since Israel was again dispersed by the Romans 500 years later.

In addition to Israel’s ingathering being permanent, almost all the prophets understood it would be accompanied by a spiritual revival and even reformation for the entire nation, most clearly seen in Ezekiel. After declaring the Lord would take Israel from the nations and gather them “into your own land” (Ez 36:24) he then beautifully described Israel’s spiritual awakening: “I will sprinkle clean water upon you … I will give you a heart of flesh … I will pour my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes ... you shall be my people and I will be your God…” (vv. 25-31). (See also Isaiah 43:44, Jeremiah 31, Joel 3.)

Israel has not yet experienced a national, spiritual revival of this magnitude. After the return from Babylon, the prophets Zechariah, Malachi and Haggai recognized this spiritual renewal of Israel had not yet taken place, but was still to come. The Apostle Paul understood that although only a remnant would be saved (Rom 11:5) during his lifetime, he foresaw a future national revival when “all Israel shall be saved ... and the redeemer shall come out of Zion” (Rom 11:26).

The prophets also saw a future messianic kingdom established with Israel (Jer 23) living in perfect peace (Is 32:17; Ez 38:8) and the nations coming to Jerusalem to worship the Lord (Is 2:1ff, Zech 14:16). All this and more still waits for its final fulfilment.

A Call to the Church

As the prophets foresaw this end time restoration of Israel, they also expected Gentile nations to play a central role. As the prophet Isaiah declared: “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and set up My standard for the peoples; they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders.’” (Is 49:22) The return of the Jews is a divine banner, a sign of God to all the nations (see also Is 11:12) which the church cannot afford to ignore. God declares to us: “Get involved!”

Today hundreds of thousands of Jews have returned to Israel with the help of Christians and churches worldwide. The ICEJ has been involved in bringing over 120,000 Jews back to Eretz Israel (Land of Israel). It is one of the greatest privileges of the church today, to be actively involved in this fulfilment of biblical prophecy.

And one more thing: This is a message which needs to be preached from our pulpits! Jeremiah declares: “Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, And declare it in the isles afar off, and say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock’.” (Jer. 31:10) The return of the Jews to Israel is a truth which should be often discussed in every church and denomination today.

Get Involved

The work of God in returning the Jews to Israel is still ongoing, especially in many countries of the former Soviet Union (e.g. Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Belarus), France and the Bnei Menashe from India. The Jewish Agency recently asked for our assistance with the final wave of Jews from Ethiopia.

One of our greatest privileges at ICEJ is to be actively involved in this prophetic work and I invite you to join us. All these projects are exciting opportunities to be part of what God is doing in Israel. Pastors, prayerfully consider joining us and have your congregation sponsor one or more Jews in their return to Israel. As God is faithful to His promises regarding His people Israel, I know He will be faithful to abundantly bless you in return. 🙏
Prayers for Israel from Dubai, Iraq and Indonesia

BY DAVID PARSONS

In the midst of bad reports of boycotts and incitement against Israel, there is some good news: Millions of Christians around the globe strongly support and stand with you, practically and through the power of prayer!

For the past five years, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has developed an on-going, weekly prayer campaign for Israel, joined by thousands of Christians in over 60 countries worldwide. It might surprise Israelis to learn that Christians from places like Dubai, Iraq, Indonesia and Malaysia, are committed to praying for her. Praying for wisdom for Israel’s leaders, strength for IDF soldiers and growth for the economy. Praying against the evil plans of Israel’s enemies, that they would repent and turn from their hatred of the Jewish people.

This Wednesday will mark the 62nd straight month in which Christians have been lifting up Israel through prayer and fasting. Called the "Isaiah 62 Campaign," this global prayer chain is based on the prophet’s call for “watchmen” to raise their voice and give God “no rest until he makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.” (Isaiah 62:7)

The Christian Embassy, founded 36 years ago in Jerusalem, maintains offices in 80 nations worldwide, and believes the prayer campaign helps evangelical Christians build a sense of attachment to Israel for the long-term.

Dr. Jürgen Bühler, director of the ICEJ, said: "These Christians are investing their time and their hearts on behalf of Israel. Before long, they care for Israel like they do for their own families. It makes them life-long Zionists. We hope this is encouraging news for Israelis.”

So why are Christians doing this? The Tanakh tells us there is great power in prayers to the God of Israel. By their prayers, Joshua made the sun stand still for an entire day and Elijah stopped the rain for three whole years.

The Hebrew Scriptures also speak of a time when the Gentile nations would again lift up prayer on behalf of the nation and people of Israel. For example, the prophet Zechariah says that “many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord.” (Zechariah 8:22)

Defending the nation of Israel requires much hard work and sacrifice. It takes training. It costs money and sometimes even lives. But like many Israelis, Christians know this nation is sustained by a God who answers prayer, and there is a special blessing for those who “pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May they prosper who love you.” (Psalm 122:6)
Prayers for Israel from Dubai, Iraq and Indonesia

BY DAVID PARSONS

In the midst of bad reports of boycotts and incitement against Israel, there is some good news: Millions of Christians around the globe strongly support and stand with you, practically and through the power of prayer!

JOIN THE ISAIAH 62 INITIATIVE of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem as we corporately pray for the peaceful restoration of Jerusalem. Just as the prophet spoke in Isaiah 62, the Lord has placed the mantle upon us, His followers, to pray for Jerusalem to once again become the praise of the earth. Do not let another day pass! Get in tune with the work of the Lord on behalf of Israel!

I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.

Isaiah 62: 6-7

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

1. Join as an individual prayer warrior at www.icej.org/isaiah62

2. Begin an Isaiah 62 prayer group in your community

3. Join us in fasting and praying on behalf of Israel every month

ICEJ

www.icej.org/isaiah62
The ICEJ HQ recently hosted a group of budding young entrepreneurs from the local Druze community. The teens, accompanied by their school principal, project supervisor and community elders, presented an innovative, prize-winning science project to the ICEJ staff. Earning first place in the northern Israel school district qualified them to compete in the upcoming nationwide LEGO League Competition in Tel Aviv.

Juha Ketola, ICEJ’s International Director, introduced the students to the ICEJ and thanked them for their visit. “You have a great future ahead of you and we want to continue working with you and the larger Druze community too,” expressed Rev. Ketola. A Druze community elder then thanked the ICEJ for their support and explained a little about their culture.

The project involved the use of “compost worms called *Eisenia Fedida* to decompose crude olive cake (waste).” In Israel, a byproduct of the olive harvest is tons of cake waste (left over after extracting the oil). Subject to rapid spoilage and proper disposal, cake waste presents a significant environmental challenge. “The students came up with the project themselves,” explained Dr Kamal Sharaf, a Druze scientist who served as a supervisor to the team. “I simply guided them and informed them of the various environmental issues that need solving.”

One by one each child stood and briefly explained the aim, purpose, results of their project: Special compost worms break down the cake waste and produce organic matter which serves as a rich chemical-free fertilizer. The produced fertilizer was scientifically evaluated, and proved superior at growing plants than the average on the market.

The research for this and other school projects was made possible thanks to an ICEJ-sponsored computers and libraries. “We want to give our heartfelt thanks for your generous support for our program and in general for the Druze community;” said the school principle. “You are investing in the leaders of the future.”

ICEJ Aid director Nicole Yoder presented each student with a certificate and a gift from the ICEJ, and a new donation was also made to their Selaf Felek Druze community.

When asked about the future application of their research, one of the girls answered, “We hope to have a small factory which produces commercial environmentally friendly fertilizers.”

The students of the school are already working on their dream. To partner with the ICEJ in assisting with similar educational projects in Israel please donate at: [www.icej.org/aid](http://www.icej.org/aid)
Shoshana opened the door with a huge smile and, with a warm “Shalom,” invited the ICEJ volunteers into her apartment. She is one of many people who heard a knock on their door this April, to be greeted by representatives of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, carrying gifts and food coupons for the upcoming Passover holidays.

ICEJ volunteers visited three cities in three days and met with dozens of families throughout Israel. Like many others, Shoshana received her Passover gift with tears, pouring out her gratitude with a warm hug.

“Everyone is different and everyone reacts differently,” said Pnina, an ICEJ representative whose fluency in English, Hebrew and Russian was invaluable. Many of the poverty-stricken Israelis are Russian-speaking and they count on our support. Nevertheless, Pnina is happy to visit the families not because of her language skills, but because she enjoys being with the people and recognizes helping the poor as being obedient to God: “[If] it is important to [God], it is important to us.”

Jannie Tolhoek, ICEJ volunteer from Holland, also visited many families in mid-April with gifts from the ICEJ. In one household she met Adina (name changed), a mother of six, three of which have special needs, while her husband only works temporary jobs. In the middle of their living room stood a sewing machine, which Adina uses to make small clothing repairs for neighbors, family and others, in order to help with the constantly growing demands of her large family.

Jannie shared what a joy it is to meet people like Adina, who really need our help: “The fact that people who didn’t even know her would care about her and her family put a big smile on her face.” The annual Passover Distribution of the ICEJ is made possible by the generous support from Christians around the world. We are grateful for every donation we receive! 🙏

You can continue supporting our compassion work among the poor in Israel. Visit our site for more information: www.icej.org/aid
2015 Feast of Tabernacles Seminar Series

Audio Downloads
Complete Package 6.99 USD

70 Years After World War II, parts 1-3
with Susan Michael & Dov Lipman; Gottfried Bühler & Dan Shaham; Susanna Kokkonen.

Israel and the Church, parts 1-3
with Ingolf Ellssel; Wayne Hilsden; Dag Juliussen.

Israel in the Bible, parts 1-3
with David Elms; Chad Holland; Eitan Shishkoff.

Israel, the Startup Nation, parts 1-3
with John Medved; Samuel Smadja; Dr. Eli Fischer.

Middle East Affairs, parts 1-3
with David Parsons; Mani Erfan; Jonathan Davis.

Reformation, parts 1-3
with Peter Tsukahira; Vishal Mangalwadi; Derek Frank.

Women in Ministry, parts 1-3
with Jane Hansen; Christine Darg; Nonnie McVeigh.

The Global Impact of the Bible, parts 1-3
with Brian Kvasnica; Michael McAfee; Michael Lynch

2015 Feast Full Set Download
49.99 USD  SALE 29.99 USD

Opening Night
2015 Feast
Jürgen Bühler

Drawing inspiration from the story of Jacob’s son Joseph, Dr. Jürgen Bühler brings a new perspective on the life of Jesus the Messiah, and the relationship between Israel and the Church.

12 USD + SHIPPING

Visit our new online store and receive a 10% discount on all purchases!
Go to: ICEJSTORE.COM and use the discount code: WFJ2016ICEJ. The special 10% discount for your purchases at the Embassy Resources is valid throughout the year 2016.
JERUSALEM, A CULINARY ADVENTURE

The book is a peculiar culinary tour of Jerusalem, sharing its tales and revealing its secrets from the kitchen. From the low end Mahane Yehuda market to the high end restaurants, the book takes us on a journey with great insights, recipes, and beautiful color photographs. Background information on the eateries only adds more flavor to this already savory city.

20 USD + SHIPPING

GOD’S TSUNAMI
BY PETER TSUKAHIRA

God’s Tsunami describes a vision about how worldwide revival connects with the land and people of Israel. The foundation of this vision is both historical and biblical and it integrates truth about the strategic value of today’s marketplace with Israel and teaching about the kingdom of God. God’s Tsunami is a life-message of its author and was first published more than one year before the great Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004.

18 USD + SHIPPING

JERUSALEM NOTEBOOK

This notebook comes in two different colors; black, white. The edges are gold colored and the pages (140) are lined - pages of high quality Italian paper, 16 x 16 cm. Cover style - hard cover luxuriously embellished with the skyline of Jerusalem and ICEJ’s logo in a gold color.

30 USD

ISRAEL FLAG

The Israel Flag made of 100% polyester. Dimensions are 90 x 150 cm (35.4 x 59.1 inches)

9 USD + SHIPPING

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. 24K Gold plated.

30 USD + SHIPPING

JERUSALEM COMPASS

The Jerusalem Compass instead of pointing north points only in the direction of Jerusalem from any point on the globe. Fashioned from pure solid brass, the lid is deeply embossed in the center with a Jewish Star of David and the words “Jerusalem” in Hebrew and English. The outer edges are encircled with a delicate floral design of Pomegranates.

39 USD + SHIPPING
Sons of Manasseh come home!

Biblical prophecies are being fulfilled today, because Christians from around the world are listening to the voice of God.

In the late 1970s a small people group in Northeast India began to research their heritage and origins of their ancient traditions, which led to an ancestral connection to Israel! Under the Persian rule, their ancestors had travelled through the Silk Route of modern day Afghanistan, Tibet, and China, finally settling in India. This group, called the Bnei Menashe (Sons of Manasseh), is believed to be part of one of the lost tribes of Israel.

And now, members of the Bnei Menashe are coming back to their ancestral home in Israel. Your financial contributions provide flights for them to return, just as the Prophet Isaiah foretold: The nations bring Israel's sons in their arms and carry Israel's daughters back to their land. (Is 49:22)

The ICEJ is committed to supporting their journey and your financial partnership makes this possible! Support us today to bring Jews home to Israel: www.icej.org/donate/bnei-menashe

Far away yet near at heart: THE JEWS OF CHINA

BY ISABELLA HENKENJOHANN

Over 7,000 kilometers away from Jerusalem, the small community in Kaifeng, China, never lost their Jewish identity. Today, Kaifeng’s young people desire to reconnect with their Jewish roots and come home to Israel.

Twenty-seven year old Li Jing is the oldest of five Kaifeng residents who recently made Aliyah. “I have known since I was very little that I am a Jew,” says Li. “My father told us our ancestors came from Israel. Still, I have a lot to learn. When my father first told me I was filled with pride. But then I was a bit puzzled. I mean, what does it mean to be a Jew?”

Growing up, Li’s parents did their best to retain their Jewish identity. “We kept the Sabbath and celebrated all the holidays – Yom Kippur, Sukkot, Hanukkah, Passover – all according to Jewish Law,” she says. Although isolated from the rest of the Diaspora, they managed to preserve their faith.

The history of the Kaifeng Jews began 1,000 years ago, when the first Jewish community from Persia or India took root in Kaifeng, a busy city off of the main trade route. Europeans knew nothing of the existence of these Chinese Jews until 1605, when an Italian priest came across a Jew from Kaifeng who told him about his flourishing community. The collective, which began to erode in the 19th century due to assimilation and intermarriage, currently contains approximately 100 Jewish families totaling about 500 people who, like Li, are rediscovering their Jewish roots.

In 2010, seven men were the first Olim (new immigrants) to arrive in Israel from Kaifeng. Six years later, the happiest moment of Li’s life was the arrival of her letter of permission to make Aliyah. As Li now settles into her new life in Israel, she is confident her journey will positively impact her fellow Kaifeng Jews, many of whom take Hebrew language courses and religious studies in preparation for moving to Israel.

Please consider making a contribution to ICEJ’s Aliyah work which assists the Kaifeng Jews who long to come home. They depend on our support! www.icej.org/aliyah
The Israeli Parliament granted approval for the remaining Jews in Ethiopia to return to Israel. Former Interior Minister Gideon Sa’ar remarked that “Israel is committed to making courageous decisions to do justice with families that were torn apart for many years.” His statement was welcomed by Ethiopian Jewry activists who said it was “a matter of life and death for thousands of Israeli families.”

The Ethiopian Jews, also known as Falash Mura (Falasha, an ancient Ethiopic term meaning “stranger” or “exile”) require additional assistance in their Aliyah preparation and absorption to help to ensure a successful integration into Israeli society. These extra services significantly increase our costs for Ethiopian immigrants to around $7,000 per person.

The ICEJ is raising support for this historic and much-needed project, which will enable the reunification of Jewish families who have, in some cases, been separated for years. Israeli officials say the need is urgent given the current drought and political turmoil in the region, as well as the growing medical problems of the Jewish community still in camps in the mountainous Gondar area and in Addis Ababa. 🇨🇪

Make a donation at www.icej.org/ethiopia

Thousands of Ethiopian Jews WAITING TO COME HOME

By Howard Flower
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

For the rest of the world, Holocaust Remembrance Day is every January, when the Allied armies liberated the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. In Israel, however, this occasion is held in the spring. For Israelis, this year’s Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day – falls on the 5th of May; since the date is fixed in the Jewish calendar, it changes from year to year in the Western calendar.

Inaugurated in 1953 and anchored in a law signed by the Prime-Minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion and President Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, the originally-proposed date was the 14th of Nisan, the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising (April 19, 1943). The timing was problematic, however, because it fell right after Passover. So the date was moved to the 27th of Nisan, eight days before Israeli Independence Day.

Every year on Yom HaShoah, ICEJ hosts a special ceremony at our Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors, which is attended by many dignitaries from Haifa and other cities, including Rabbis and political figures, groups of students, soldiers and other Israeli servicemen and women.

YUDIT HERSKOWITZ

“I lost all my family in Auschwitz. When we arrived in Auschwitz, we were separated and we saw smoke, but we had no idea what was happening. I am the only one of my whole extended family that came out alive. I’m still trying to find out what happened to each one of them. Every year at Holocaust Memorial Day I am glued to the TV, hoping to see if I might find something out about my family. On this day is when I hold a personal memorial for all those I lost.”

ICEJ’s David Parsons honors Auschwitz survivors at the Haifa Home
It is a very difficult day. When my children were little and still living with me, I tried not to be with them when the sirens went off [for one minute of silence], because I would always cry. We didn’t want to burden our children with our past and wanted them to be happy, so for many years we never told them the things we went through. It is a day I think about my family that was murdered and I say the mourner’s prayer. It is like visiting their grave on that day.

GENIA SWARTZBERT
Every week I light 5 candles. Three for my family that perished and two for the Russian women who saved my life. We should not forget the good things, and we should not forget the bad things.

AMIT, SOCIAL WORKER
It is a very difficult day for the Survivors. In a way, they relive the Holocaust every day. The Memorial Day gives them permission to mourn and it gives the people of Israel [an opportunity] to become one with their pain.

SHIMON SABAG
All of Israel is one and remembers what happened on Yom HaShoah. One third of the Jews in Europe were killed. On this day we remember the families who were murdered. Many have no grave to go to and mourn. It is an important day to learn from - they wanted to destroy the Jewish people, and the world didn’t believe it would happen. We hear these voices even today. We need to be alert and learn from the past, so it will never happen again.

We are thankful for every donation that we receive for our unique Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors. Make your contribution by visiting www.icej.org/haifa
Born in a small town in Poland bordering Germany, Miriam remembers the day the Nazis arrived. Just five days after their initial attack on Warsaw, Nazi troops marched into town, closed all Synagogues, executed the first Jew and assigned the rest of them to hard labour. Miriam and other young girls had the gruelling task of clearing snow and stones off a field, only to be ordered to put the stones back the very next day. Anyone not working hard enough, in the eyes of the Nazis, was ruthlessly beaten.

Before long, Miriam and the others were transported to Ghetto Lodz. They lived there for a month: Sleeping in the cold, winter streets on makeshift straw mattresses before being marched back to town, where another Ghetto had been prepared. One by one, Miriam’s sister, brother and grandmother were sent off to different camps; she never saw them again. Miriam can still recall the sounds of wailing and sobbing as family members were separated.

In 1942, Miriam was sent back to Ghetto Lodz, a place of starvation, sickness and constant death, only to be taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau two years later. The chaos which greeted them and ensuing months of living constantly surrounded by death were, in Miriam’s words, “beyond the realm of human language” to describe. Thankfully, this nightmare ended when the camp was liberated in the spring of 1945.

Miriam’s parents and all but one of her siblings did not survive the war. Once freed, Miriam began her journey to the land of Palestine – soon to become Israel – on the ‘Biria.’ In this ship, the Jewish passengers were packed together like sardines with hardly any access to food, but the hope of arriving in a Jewish homeland kept them alive. Upon arrival, British troops detained Miriam and the other passengers on charges of traveling to Palestine illegally, but as British rule in Palestine was withering, the war victims were eventually released.

Miriam recalls dancing in the streets on the day Israel declared statehood. After years of living in a nightmare, she was now witnessing a dream: The Jewish people finally had a home! Today Miriam is a proud mother of three, grandmother of nine, and great grandmother of seven beautiful children.

Miriam is a resident at the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors. As her health diminishes, she is grateful for the care and companionship she enjoys at the Home. You can contribute to this work which ensures these precious survivors are surrounded by love in the remaining years of their lives. Make your donation at: www.icej.org/haifa
FOREST of LIFE
A TESTIMONY OF LOVE FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

DONATE $500 TO PLANT A TREE

BY PLANTING A TREE, YOU BLESS THE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND PRESERVE THEIR MEMORY, WHILE ALSO REVIVING THE LAND OF ISRAEL. FOR A DONATION OF $500, THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM WILL PLANT AN OLIVE TREE IN THE "FOREST OF LIFE"

WWW.ICEJ.ORG/FORESTOFLIFE
JEWS AND CHRISTIANS GATHERED TOGETHER in Stuttgart, Germany, earlier this year to mark the International Holocaust Memorial Day. Many dignitaries from Jewish and Christian communities and political representatives came together in a time to, as the event’s theme suggests, “Remember. Acknowledge. Act.”

Gottfried Bühler of ICEJ-Germany spoke at the event. Honouring the many victims of the Holocaust, Bühler also emphasizing the importance of taking a stand for Israel and the Jewish people today. Speaking out against the BDS movement and the labelling of Israeli products from the disputed territories, Bühler said: “For many Jews, this is a painful reminder of the Nazi slogan, ‘Don’t buy in Jewish stores’.”

Hope and help for the persecuted

Dr. Dan Shaham, Israeli consul general for southern Germany, commended the unique friendship between Germany and Israel after the “unparalleled disaster” of the Holocaust. He called this development a “sign of hope” for many nations and people, but also urged the audience to remember our continuing duty to help those who need it most. In that context, Dr. Shaham highlighted the plight of persecuted Yazidi and Christian communities in the Middle East.

Josef Aaron, a German-born Holocaust survivor who now resides in Jerusalem, recounted the horrors he went through. Even after arriving in Israel at the age of ten, Josef was homeless for eight months, keeping himself alive from other people’s garbage. “What helped me through every trial was my faith in God, who was and is always with me.” He invited everyone to visit Israel, which he described as “the most beautiful country in the world.”

German pastor Jobst Bittner challenged the audience to carry their personal responsibility in the fight against anti-Semitism. Before lighting memorial candles, he encouraged them to always let their light shine. “Even the smallest light can diffuse darkness.” Six memorial flames were lit on an illuminated Star of David.

BY LISA SCHMID
ICEJ JOINS RELIGIOUS BROADCASTERS IN NASHVILLE, TN

BY RAYMOND RAMIREZ

In February, senior leaders from the ICEJ Jerusalem headquarters attended the National Religious Broadcasters International Media Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Working closely with the ICEJ-USA branch, the team hosted an official session on Israel as part of the media convention’s “hot topics” track, which was open to the thousands of registered attendees.

“Israel: Hope in a Region of Crisis” featured Rev. Juha Ketola, ICEJ International Director, and Kay Arthur, world renowned author, speaker, and longtime NRB member, and was moderated by Susan Michael, ICEJ US Branch Director.

An official statement from NRB President & CEO Dr. Jerry A. Johnson read: “NRB is proud to present this very special session, and thankful to the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem for bringing together a fine panel of speakers... this session will give Christian broadcasters a better understanding of these issues and of what God is doing in the midst of it all.”

In addition to the special session on Israel, Rev. Juha Ketola addressed NRB members and NRB board members in separate closed meetings, giving them insights regarding the work of the ICEJ in Jerusalem. Conference attendees were also able to meet and interact with leaders and staff at ICEJ’s booth in the NRB Expo. The week long convention provided many opportunities to forge new relationships and to bring a greater awareness of ICEJ’s ongoing work in Israel and around the globe.

ICEJ-USA PARTNERS WITH HISPANIC CHURCHES

The US Branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has launched a strategic partnership with the Hispanic Israel Leadership Coalition (HILC) which is a subsidiary and ministry of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC) and Conela. HILC’s vision is to establish the world’s largest and most influential pro-Israel Latino entity.

The first activities of the ICEJ-HILC partnership will be Bless Israel Weekends in Hispanic churches across the USA.

These weekends will include a Friday night Bless Israel event, followed by Saturday workshops on topics such as Pro-Israel Activism, Effective Intercession for Israel, Biblical Significance of Israel, Move of God in the Middle East, and Understanding the Issues of Arabs and Jews in the Middle East.

A training seminar was held on December 4th in Cooper City, Florida, to prepare a team of over 20 Hispanic pastors and young adult leaders to represent ICEJ-HILC, present Bless Israel Weekends around the nation, and speak on various topics.

Susan Michael, US Director of the ICEJ said, “We are very happy to be partnering with HILC so that our outreach to Hispanic churches is effective and far reaching. The ICEJ has tremendous substance and experience with the Israel issue, and HILC has access to the churches as well as the expertise in reaching them. Together we are far more effective than we would each be on our own.”

“The Hispanic Israel Leadership Coalition is honored to partner with ICEJ and Susan Michael to engage, empower and equip the Latino Evangelicals in the pro-Israel movement,” said Mario Bramnick, President of HILC. “ICEJ’s years of involvement in the pro-Israel movement will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our leaders.”

“ICEJ WORLDWIDE”
Earlier this year, I had a unique opportunity to represent ICEJ and minister at a conference for pastors in Turkey, the multifaceted country with rich Christian history. Only a few kilometers away from the biblical town of Ephesus, dozens of pastors gathered to attend the event; together with ICEJ partners in Turkey, we shared the message of God’s love for Jerusalem.

The ruins of the ancient city of Ephesus, one of seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation, are a great reminder of its significance in the history of Christianity, as well as unfortunately the sad spiritual condition of the surrounding areas. Modern Turkey, where all seven biblical churches were located, has a very small Christian community today and life can be challenging for the local followers of Jesus. Many of the 200 registered churches in Turkey, which average between 30 and 150 members, still teach replacement theology and anti-Semitism is not uncommon, even among Christians.

At the Conference for Pastors, I had the privilege to introduce the ICEJ ministry to the attendees and play some music from Israel, including worship songs. For an hour and a half, the participants’ attention was turned towards Jerusalem! For some of them it surely was a challenging time, but most of them welcomed the message of the ICEJ with tears and joy.

The "Israel question" about the nation and role of the Jewish People in God’s plan was always a topic of secret discussion for the Turkish churches. Christians in Turkey are hesitant to openly discuss the Hebraic roots of Christianity, for fear of being accused of Zionism, which is a crime in Turkey.

Today, around 20 thousand Jews live in Turkey, mostly in the city of Istanbul. In the midst of great instability in the region, anti-Semitism is increasing, and Turkey also faces the dangerous spread of Islam and the Islamic State. The current and potential new ICEJ representatives in the cities of Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara and Alanya are in great need of our prayers. As in the days of the first disciples of Jesus, the ICEJ is reaching this incredible nation with the message of hope and reconciliation.
WWW.ARISEGENERATION.ORG

21-31 JULY 2016
LAND PACKAGE 1250 USD
(EXCLUDING FLIGHTS + TIP)

Arise
2016
SUMMER TOUR

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED
FROM GOD IN HIS LAND