1. Denying the Truth of the Word

Even though Germany was at the center of the great Reformation, it also opened the door in the late 1600s to secular liberalism. While Luther was first to translate the entire Bible into a common language, other German theologians soon began questioning its truthfulness. By the early 20th century, many were suggesting the Bible was just a collection of fables. This liberal theological approach peaked in 1942 when Rudolph Bultmann, a German Lutheran, called for demythologizing the Gospels – meaning the removal of the Resurrection and other supposed miracles. He believed that only the bare fact of Christ crucified was necessary for the Christian faith. This novel idea spread quickly throughout the world.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 3
Director’s Letter

Dear friends,

Last month, we joined the nation of Israel in commemorating once again on Yom HaShoah the unique historic tragedy known as the Holocaust. The entire country came to a total standstill once more as the sirens rang nationwide and all Israel remembered the six million Jews brutally murdered by Nazi Germany. It will be an eternal stain on human history and we do good to learn the lessons from that dark period.

Many times we hear people say that Israel needs to stop talking constantly about the Holocaust, that “enough is enough!” Yet the American philosopher George Santayana once stated: “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

This is in fact a biblical principle. God challenges His people through the prophet Jeremiah: “Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers?” (Jeremiah 44:9)

God wants us to remember where we have come from, not to bring us into condemnation but to prevent us from falling today into the same pits as yesterday.

Therefore it is not just a question of remembering the past but of re-shaping the present and the future. Our partnership with Yad Vashem is exactly focused on this. We just had another group of pastors from all over the world coming to Jerusalem to learn the tragic lessons of history so needed for our world today.

In addition, our Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa is bringing a real blessing. here and now, to those precious heroes who managed to survive Hitler’s madness.

The Christian Embassy is committed not only to remembering the past, but with your help we want to make a lasting difference today and tomorrow.

Please stand with us as we bless Israel and support the Jewish people around the world.

In the love of Christ!

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director

>> continued from page 1

Thus by the time the Nazis reached their zenith, many German Christians no longer considered the Bible to be sacred and authoritative.

2. Resisting the Holy Spirit

The Pentecostal movement birthed at the Azusa Street Revival in 1906 rapidly spread to Europe, first to Norway and from there to Germany. The ecstatic nature of these early revival meetings offended many in the sober and well-educated German evangelical leadership. In 1909 they met in Berlin and issued what was called “the Berlin Declaration”, which stated that the Pentecostal experience was demonic and thus off limits to German parishioners. This declaration was only revoked in 1956.

3. Failure to Discern the Times

Before 1932, many evangelical Christians in Germany still held strong nationalist and even monarchist views. They felt that the dismantling of Kaiser Wilhelm’s throne was leading to a strong decay of moral values in Germany. Meantime, the Bolshevics had removed the czars and brought communism to Russia, accompanied by stiff persecution of the Russian church. With the communists gaining popularity in Germany, many Protestant Christians saw the Nazis more as a conservative bulwark against the rise of atheistic communism.

Thus many Christians welcomed the Nazis and saw Hitler as restoring morality in Germany – night clubs were closed, homosexuality was banned, and the streets were made safe again. So, the Church fell for Hitler because they thought the danger was coming more from the radical Left. There were pastors who did speak out against Hitler and some even had to pay with their lives, but they were too few to impact the nation.

Lessons to be learned

Paul tells us in II Thessalonians 2: 9-12 that, “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie…”

Paul warns here that the lack of “a love of the truth” creates a vacuum in our hearts where powerful deceptions can take hold. This is exactly what happened in Germany, as liberal theologians undermined love and respect for the word of God. Consequently, a powerful deception crept in and eventually took over an entire nation. So we must never allow the authority of the word of God to be diminished in our own lives. Rather, let us draw daily nourishment from the Word of God. It is a light in dark times.

In addition, we urgently need the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said the Spirit will lead us into all truth and will even tell us of things to come (John 16:13). We need the prophetic voice of the Spirit even when it conflicts with the trends in our culture. German Christians had rejected a genuine move of the Holy Spirit and thereby closed the door to His voice. We face challenging times ahead and will not be able to survive without His guidance. We need a daily hunger to hear from the Holy Spirit.

Finally, we must have our identity firmly established in the Kingdom of God. German Christians had too much faith in a strong national redeemer. They failed greatly. Many German Christians saw themselves first as Germans and only secondly as Christians. While the Bible clearly admonishes us to pray for our governments and to be loyal and law-abiding citizens, we should never forget that our true identity and citizenship lies in heaven with the people of God (Hebrews 11:13-16).

Let us together learn these lessons from history. In doing so, God will keep us from falling and enable us to be a powerful testimony to the world around us. ☺

Dr. Buehler is executive director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem; www.icej.org
As Israel observed its annual Holocaust Remembrance Day on 19 April, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was invited to join senior Israeli government figures and Jewish leaders from around the world at the official ceremonies at Yad Vashem.

The next morning, a two-minute siren sounded across Israel in memory of those who perished in the Nazi genocide. Immediately following the nationwide siren, Peres, Peres and Netanyahu were the first to lay wreaths back in Warsaw Ghetto Square.

The seminars aimed to give these Christian leaders the tools necessary to speak authoritatively about the history of antisemitism and the factual basis of the Shoah. The conference included in-depth tours of the museum, archives and research facilities at Yad Vashem, plus personal encounters with Holocaust survivors and lectures by leading scholars in the field of Holocaust education.

The responses from participants were overwhelmingly positive. Several praised the high quality of the scholarship presented in the seminars, while everyone found the times of engagement with Holocaust survivors to be unforgettable.

One of the things that has really left an impression on me is to realise of my personal journey of faith”, explained British pastor Mike Kerry.

“I am also seeing the parallels with racism in the American South and I can identify with how it gets entrenched in a culture. And this course at Yad Vashem helps me to be able to combat that back home”, he assured.

“One thing we can actually do is to give a proper Christian voice to these atrocities; that this was an unprecedented fact and we need to proclaim that in our congregations. We need to stand up and declare this was wrong!”

The ICEJ is committed to sponsoring another Christian Leadership Seminar at Yad Vashem for a new group of pastors and ministry leaders in the autumn of 2012, as well as two more in 2013. Please consider sponsoring pastors from your country to come learn important historic lessons and values at Yad Vashem.

Help support the work of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem at www.icej.org
Most of these survivors are now well into their 70s and 80s if not older, and many suffer from illnesses related to the severe malnourishment they endured as youngsters during the worst deprivations of World War II. Besides serious medical problems, many also struggle with acute loneliness and other emotional traumas.

One of the ways we are assisting them is through an adoption program whereby Christians around the world can befriend and support an individual Holocaust survivor. The ICEJ’s Holocaust Survivor Adoption Program is not only a vital source of financial support, it also helps the survivors know that they are not forgotten. Each one is deeply grateful for this assistance and tells their Jewish friends and neighbours about their Christian sponsors.

Some of the adoptions are done through the Israeli charity L’Chaim, while other potential adoptees reside in the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors.

By becoming a part of the program, you can have a personal sense of connection to these precious Holocaust survivors and the assisted-living home we have created for them in Haifa. On a recent visit, we learned more fully how much the support means. “I love her without knowing her!” said Esther as she held a postcard from her adoptive Christian sponsor close to her heart. “After losing family in the Holocaust, it means so much that people are thinking of us.”

As Yitzhak slept, devoted wife Fanny smiled with pleasure as a letter to the couple was translated into Hebrew. Yitzhak sleeps a lot, she explained, as he is very weak now. When Yitzhak was only 10 years old, he worked as hard as any adult in the Lodz slave labor camp to avoid deportation to the death camps. His small size allowed him to escape from the ghetto at night to try and steal food and other items to help its Jewish residents cope. Now he is weakened by poor health and old age to the point that it has basically overcome him. But Yitzhak takes comfort in knowing that his waning years are being spent within the secure and loving environment of the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors.

Many Christians today say they would have risked their lives to help rescue Jews if they had lived back during the Nazi genocide. Yet right now, we have the opportunity to help those who did survive but still struggle with its impact even in old age. Please consider making one of these dear ones your personal friend.

Contact us at icejaid@icej.org for more information on adopting a Holocaust survivor. Or send a generous donation to ICEJ AID to help us cover the continuing renovations and daily operating costs of the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors. Make your gift today at www.icej.org.
Benjamin Ginsberg was born in 1919 in Vilnius, Lithuania where he grew up with four sisters. During childhood life was quite “sweet” for Benjamin, as his Jewish parents owned a confectionery. He admits to pinching a treat here-and-there and thus was a little heavy as a child, he says with a twinkle.

But then things turned dark for Jews in Lithuania. Benjamin left Vilnius just before the local pogroms started in 1939, then the Soviets invaded in 1940, followed by the German occupation in 1941. Benjamin’s parents and three sisters had stayed behind and as a result perished in the Holocaust. Only Benjamin and one of his sisters survived, having been sent to live with relatives and friends in Switzerland, Italy and finally Holland.

When Benjamin arrived in the Netherlands, he was able to get fake documents to live openly for five years. This was a miracle which saved his life!

At the end of the war, Benjamin was 26 years old and joined the Youth Aliyah movement heading to Israel. He landed in Haifa in March 1946 aboard the illegal ship “Tel Chai”. He met a young lady on the vessel that would become his wife. They married and settled in Haifa, where he became a bookkeeper and fought in Israel’s War of Independence. His sister also made Aliyah soon after.

Benjamin’s wife died 14 years ago and his sister lived to age 95 before passing away as well. Today, he has one son living in Ashkelon, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They visit him once a month at the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors, where he took up residence two years ago. At 92 years old, Benjamin is one of the oldest residents at the assisted-living home built by the ICEJ.

“I am very lazy now”, he says with a smile. “It is very good to be here. I get everything I need: They bring me tea and meals and I don’t have to do anything by myself. It is like to be in a hotel of ten stars. I don’t have words. The people here are all so nice!”

He is also watching his diet more these days. Not as many sweets, and a bit more vegetables and white cheese.

One of the newest residents of the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors is Yosef Friedman, who was born in 1932 in Bucharest, Romania.

When Yossi was eleven years old, he barely escaped being deported in a Nazi round-up of the local Jewish community. His family lived just beside a synagogue, but his father had deserted the family and his mother stopped sending Yossi to events for Jewish youths. So when he saw Nazi soldiers herding all the area Jews together in the synagogue one evening, the soldiers told him to “Go away!” Apparently, they did not know he was Jewish and did not want any “witnesses” to what was happening. The next day a truck came and took the detained Jews to a death camp.

Yossi and his mother had escaped that first deportation but they continued to live in constant fear of discovery. The anxiety of capture stayed with them throughout the war years.

Yossi only made aliya to Israel in 1964. He fought in the 1967 Six-Day War and then kept a promise that if he survived the battle he would come back and marry his sweetheart Diana, who was divorced and had two children already.

Today, the couple are still happily married more than 40 years later, with one daughter added to the family. The couple were living in a small house in Neve Shanan when Yossi first heard about the assisted-living home for survivors.

“Singing brought me to the Haifa Home”, Yossi recently recalled. “When I once worked for an electrical company, I met a singer at a work party. I told him that I can sing too and gave him a demonstration. Not long ago I contacted this singer again. He sings every Thursday at the Haifa Home and invited me and my wife to come one day.”

Yossi and Diana were instantly drawn by the “community of kindness” they encountered there, as the residents themselves describe the home.

They now live together in a little apartment in the Haifa Home. “Everything is wonderful, it is a wonderful place”, Yossi said enthusiastically.

Neither receives a pension, so they live off the small amount of money they get from renting out their old house.

“Here we get everything we need – medical treatment, three meals a day. And we have communion with very nice people”, Yossi said cheerfully.
**Remembering the ‘Righteous’ Heroes**

by Estera Wieja

In 1961, Yad Vashem embarked upon a special project to grant the title of “Righteous Among the Nations” to those Gentiles who had helped rescue Jews during the Holocaust.

This designation is given to non-Jews who risked their own lives to save Jews during the Nazi genocide. Those recognized as “Righteous Gentiles” receive a medal and a certificate of honor. Israel also confers honorary citizenship upon them, as well as a standing offer to reside in Israel.

Over the years some 150 Righteous Gentiles have taken up the offer to move to Israel, and for many the decision was a courageous one. Relatives and friends often frowned upon them, and they faced having to start their lives all over again in a new country.

There are still several dozen Righteous Gentiles now living in Israel who are well into old age, and the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has partnered with the Israeli charitable ATZUM to help meet their daily needs. This sends a clear message to the rescuers that their heroism and sacrifice have not been forgotten.

Jerzy Radzio and his family were among those recognized as Righteous Gentiles who moved to Israel. Today, Jerzy has passed on but he is survived by his wife Aldona and daughter Beata.

Like so many Righteous Gentiles, the Radzios never planned to become rescuers and were totally unprepared for the moment in which they had to make momentous decisions. Jerzy and his brother Slavek Radzio were teenagers when they watched a line of Jews being marched along the Vistula River and into a forced labor camp in 1942.

It all happened very fast. Slavek, a well-built young man, pulled out a Jewish couple named Shmuel and Dvora Lipszyc from the line and hid them behind him. As the guards were not looking, they also grabbed Shmuel’s mother-in-law Leah Bats. A few days later, they managed to smuggle Shmuel’s brother Avraham out of the Jabłonna camp near Warsaw.

“Jerzy and Slavek came home with the Lipszyc family,” Aldona recently recalled. “They just called out to their mother, ‘We’ve brought guests!’ And without any questions asked, these ‘guests’ moved in with them.”

The Radzio family quickly changed the attic of their home into a concealed living space. In the beginning, the Jewish ‘guests’ paid the Radzio family, who were Polish Christians, for the cost of their upkeep. But even when their money ran out the Radzios shared all their food with them, despite living entirely on the salary of one of the brothers.

During this two year period they experienced many anxious moments, especially when a Nazi army unit was stationed nearby.

Eventually, Jerzy and Aldona Radzio decided to move to Israel, where they renewed their close friendship with Avraham and Shmuel. The relationship had turned into something beautiful, despite having been born in an era marked by fear and cruelty.

Please consider your gift to help us assist these and other elderly Righteous Gentiles in Israel. They deserve our comfort and thanks for showing true Christian love at a critical time. Give to ICEJ AID today at www.icej.org.

The Pollen of Jew Hatred

by David Parsons

Physical attacks on Jews worldwide are on the increase again, most at the hands of radical Muslims. Meantime, the rise in verbal incitement against the Jewish people and state is no less troubling. The most outrageous example of late is the poetic dagger of German literary idol Günther Grass.

In a poem published in newspapers in Germany, Italy and Spain, the aging Grass accused Israel of planning to strike Iran with its presumed nuclear arsenal fully knowing it “could wipe out the Iranian people.” He added that Germany would be an accomplice to this unspeakable crime because it is supplying Israel with a Dolphin-class submarine capable of launching atomic warheads.

The broadside sparked an international firestorm. Israeli officials declared Grass persona non-grata. Jewish leaders accused him of intentionally turning his criticism for Passover like so many blood libels of past generations. Critics also noted that Grass had long ago lost any moral weight by urging Germans to confront their Nazi past while concealing for decades his own membership in the Waffen SS.

Incredibly, the Grass poem seemed to touch all the wrong buttons in one fell swoop.

First, it indeed harkened back to classic anti-Semitic motifs but under the guise of the “new anti-Semitism” – obsessive vilification of Israel. The traditional anti-Semitism of Christian Europe targeted the Jews as inherently evil. Now, Israel is the primary threat to world peace.

It also smacked of the “conspiratorial Jew” out to control the world or, in this case, to annihilate the Iranian people. Grass reversed the true nature of the threat by misrepresenting Israel’s specific concerns over Iran’s nuclear facilities while downplaying Iran’s publicly stated ambition to “wipe Israel off the map.”

Finally, it fit an historic pattern of European anti-Semites exporting their Jew hatred to the Muslim world. Dr. Matthias Künzel and other scholars have documented the flight of Nazi propagandists from Germany to the Middle East, particularly to Damascus and Cairo, after World War II. But the blood libel of Damascus in 1840 shows that the importation of European Christian anti-Semitism into the Arab world goes back at least 100 years earlier.

In that tragic episode, European clergymen assigned to Syrian churches falsely accused eight clergymen assigned to Syrian churches falsely accused eight notable Jews in Damascus of murdering a Christian monk for his blood. They were imprisoned and several died of torture. Enraged Muslims also carried out a pogrom against the local Jewish community.

According to the diary of British officer Col. Richard Meinertzhagen, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was ignited in the early 1920s by Christian anti-Semites serving in the British administration in Jerusalem, who incited Arabs to riot around Easter time based on false rumours of Jewish atrocities. So there is a long tradition of European anti-Semites cross-pollinating Muslim Arabs with their warped loathing of Jews. In the shadow of the Holocaust, no German or European should ever be a part of this again. Rather, we in the West have a duty to steer Muslims away from drinking out of the same poisonous trough which brought so much shame on Europe.

Anti-Semitism is ugly. Mr. Grass, even when dressed up in couplets and stanzas.
FEAST of TABERNACLES 2012

The SPIRIT of GRACE and SUPPLICATION

SEPTEMBER 30 to OCTOBER 4, 2012

Event Schedule

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
- OUTDOOR DESERT CELEBRATION // 18:30-21:00

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1
- COMMUNION SERVICE - ENGLISH // 10:00-12:00
  THE GARDEN TOMB
- COMMUNION SERVICE - ENGLISH/PORTUGUESE // 14:00-16:00
  THE GARDEN TOMB
- EVENING CELEBRATION // 19:30-21:30
- INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER JERUSALEM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2
- MORNING SESSIONS // 8:00-13:00
- EVENING CELEBRATION // 19:30-21:30

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3
- MORNING SESSIONS // 8:00-13:00
- EVENING CELEBRATION // 19:30-21:30

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4
- MORNING SESSIONS // 8:00-13:00
- GRAND FINALE EVENING CELEBRATION // 19:30-21:30

Please Note: Events, times, locations, & speakers are subject to change

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ICEJ
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