THE IMPACT OF ISRAEL'S REBIRTH
1948 - 2018

COMMEMORATIVE CABINET SESSION AT INDEPENDENCE HALL, TEL AVIV
Dear friends

Having lived 24 years here in Israel, this current season is one of the most amazing I can remember. The historic anniversaries, embassies moving to Jerusalem, new alignments in the Middle East and fast-growing interest in Israel from the church around the world all speak the same language: We are living in an exciting season of restoration!

I am reminded of what the prophet Isaiah declares, “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it?” (Isa 43:18-19) God is indeed doing many new things here in Israel, and we see God’s hand powerfully at work.

It was an unforgettable highlight to see the openings of the embassies in Jerusalem. On their visit to Jerusalem, we hand-delivered the new Cyrus Award to the presidents of Guatemala and Paraguay. Guatemala’s ambassador shared a touching detail with me. She told me about the challenging crime situation in her country but also stated that on the same day the Guatemalan embassy opened its doors, not a single crime was recorded in the entire nation for the first time in Guatemala’s history! Praise God for that. It is indeed true that God is faithful to His promises. Please continue to pray for Guatemala and all the nations that decide to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

I am also excited about our new prayer movement called the “PrayerWave”, which we introduced in our last magazine. Several hundred intercessors have already committed to join us in 22 different time zones! This is a miracle, and we believe that very soon we will have a massive wave of prayer partners and intercessors standing 24/7 on the walls of Jerusalem. Please prayerfully consider joining the PrayerWave at www.prayerwave.com

I pray that you are blessed reading this issue of the Word from Jerusalem. Thank you for standing with Israel and the ICEJ.

Many blessings from Jerusalem,

Dr Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ President

COVER PHOTO: Commemorative cabinet meeting at Independence Hall, Tel Aviv

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

BY DR JÜRGEN BÜHLER
ICEJ PRESIDENT
The coming deception
When the disciples asked Jesus on the Mount of Olives about the signs of His coming, His first reply was, “Take heed that no one deceives you!” This answer is reported in all three synoptic gospels. Jesus made clear to His disciples that a major battlefield of the last days will be the battle for truth. This battle will take place in society as well as within the Church. The effect will be great, and Jesus says that “many will be led astray” (Matt 24:5).

Also the Apostle Paul warns Timothy that deception of demonic origin will emerge within the Church (1 Tim 4:1). Paul also alerts the church in Thessalonica that the antichrist would appear through lying signs and wonders and through wicked deception (1 Thess 2:9-12). The people are going to willingly accept these lies because “they refused to love the truth” and because “they did not believe the truth” (verses 10&12).

Man’s nature gravitates towards the lie
These scriptures indicate that man’s fallen nature gravitates towards deception and lies rather than truth. This also reveals that many deceptions do not just originate from misunderstanding, lack of education, or a false approach to the scriptures, but come straight from hell and are of demonic origin. This makes these deceptions particularly dangerous as they carry with them a “demonic anointing”, impacting men beyond their reasoning or education.

Their power is in their mouth
The book of Revelation portrays the eschatological battle between Satan’s system and the Kingdom of God as a battle about who controls the airwaves. He who speaks the loudest and can influence and manipulate the best seems to have the upper hand. Here are a few examples:

- When the sixth trumpet sounded, John the Apostle saw a gigantic army of horsemen with the horses having heads of lions. Their purpose is to kill. The most dangerous weapon was what came out of the horses’ mouths: Fire, smoke and sulphur. John summarises, “the power of the horses is in their mouth” (Rev 9:19).

- In Rev 12, the dragon (Satan) attacked the woman (Israel) who brought forth a male child (Jesus). The dragon hates the woman, and John sees the “serpent pouring out water like a river out of his mouth after the woman” (v15). History gives ample evidence that since the coming of Messiah, there have been almost 2,000 years of demonic onslaught against the Jewish people. This flood of lies has had many shades: ‘Jews are Christ killers’, ‘They plot to control the world’, ‘they are a degenerate race that needs to be exterminated’, etc. The list of wicked and demonic accusations is as long as the history of the Jewish people’s suffering.

- When the sixth bowl was poured out on the earth (Rev 16:12), the consequence was that out of the mouth of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet, three unclean spirits emerged that looked like frogs that deceived “the kings of the whole earth”. This means the deceptive spirits will not only impact the man on the street but explicitly target government leaders and rulers.

- Even at the very last battle in Revelation (Rev 20:8), Satan mobilises the world by “deceiving the nations that are at the four corners of the world”. Their target again is the city of Jerusalem, the capital of the Jewish people.

The arsenal of Satan
The art of communication (or miscommunication) seems to be the cornerstone of Satan’s power. His mouth is his main weapon. The arsenal that he wields is prideful talk, temptations, lies and half-truths, deception, blasphemy, doubt, and so much more. Jesus therefore calls him the father of lies.

Demonic seduction
The history of anti-Semitism is a history of lies and false accusations against the Jews. It is no wonder that one of the most essential government ministries in Adolf Hitler’s Nazi regime was the ‘Propaganda Ministry’, lead by the notorious Joseph Goebbels, a master of modern communications in his own time. Why Germany, one of the most educated countries of the world at the time, gave in to Hitler’s propaganda is still a mystery to many. However, it helps to understand it as an onslaught of demonic nature. I remember my great aunt telling me that whenever the ‘Führer’, Hitler, spoke on the radio, everybody was pulled in as if by a magnet. “There was something like magic when he spoke,” she said.

Satan’s lies and half-truths have been in operation since the Garden of Eden. Already ‘the serpent, more cunning than all the other animals of Eden’, poured out a flow of doubt and temptation against mankind: “Has God really said?” “No way you will die”, “You will be like him” (cf. Gen 3 1-5). Giving in to these lies set the course of history on a path of rebellion and destruction.

Today, the values of truth and justice are turned upside down. The Orwellian ‘doublethink’ and ‘newspeak’ seem to be all around us.
in today’s politically correct discourse. It has reached such a level that in many countries people seem to be waking up to the fact that “fake news” and “political correctness” increasingly form a smokescreen to hide the real facts and actual reality of our world.

While George Orwell’s imaginary government in “1984” proclaimed “WAR IS PEACE! FREEDOM IS SLAVERY! IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH!”, the lies of today similarly proclaim that “Terrorists are freedom fighters”, “Molotov-cocktail-throwing rioters are peaceful demonstrators” and “an army defending its citizens and its borders are war criminals”, and of course, “The Jews today are worse than the Nazis of the past.”

It is difficult to understand how systematically and unreasonably the world sides against Israel and rather favours terror-supporting regimes in the Middle East. Even the kings of this world are caught in an unreasonable and wicked stand against Israel and the Jewish people. It is inexplicable why UN bodies are more obsessed with Israel, as the only free democracy in the Middle East, than with rogue regimes like Iran, North Korea or Venezuela. It is inexplicable why Israel is the only nation of the world that cannot choose the seat of its capital, or why the UN security council wanted to investigate only Israel in the recent Gaza clashes and not the terrorist organisation Hamas, who called upon its youth, women and children to storm the border fence to Israel. The list goes on and on.

Solidarity in persecution
The same assault goes on against the Church of God. In Rev 12 when the dragon persecutes the woman (Israel), he does not succeed because “the earth came to help her”. As a result, the dragon was enraged and “went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 12:17). This means that we are called upon to be more alert than ever to uphold the truth of the Word and to know it.

Four pieces of advice
Let us remember the warning Jesus gave his disciples on the Mt of Olives, “Take heed that no one deceives you!” Here are a few suggestions to help us navigate through these complex times in which we are living:

We need to be a people of truth! A reason why deception is entering the world is because “they refused to love the truth” (2 Thess 2:10). For us as believers, knowing the truth is essential to escape the assaults of the enemy. Remember Jesus replied to every temptation of Satan with, “It is written...” Make Bible study a daily routine in your life.

We need to be a people of prayer. In Ephesians 6, we are reminded that “our battle is not against flesh and blood”. One of the weapons the Word of God gives us is “praying always (...) in the Spirit” (Eph 6:18).

We need to be a people of testimony. Knowing the truth is sometimes not enough. Situations will arise when we are called upon to speak up. Truth defuses lies like light chases darkness away. The book of Revelation sees a victorious army who have overcome the accuser “… by the word of their testimony...” (Rev 12:11). Ask God for courage to stand up for the truth of our faith and for God’s chosen people, the Jews.

We need to be a prophetic people. Prophecy is more than just seeing the future. It is also feeling God’s heart for the current generation. It was the heart of God for their generation with which the prophets of old challenged their people. This also lies at the very heart of who Jesus is: “Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10). Finally, be encouraged with the word of John, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” (3 John 4) May the Lord bless you as you do so.
The history of a people can be likened to a fabric made up of many individual threads. This illustration fits both the Jewish people as a whole and the many individuals who together form its constituent parts. The Bnei Menashe, the sons of Menashe, are recognised by the Israeli rabbinate as one of Israel’s lost tribes. They are now being woven into the colourful tapestry of the Jewish nation with support from the ICEJ. The distance they have to travel from north-eastern India is as great as their longing for Zion. This longing reflects God’s command and promise: “Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east...” (Isaiah 43:5). This promise is why the ICEJ continues to stand with the Bnei Menashe and has recently committed additional funds for their return to Zion. Here are some of their enthusiastic expressions of gratitude in response to the ICEJ’s support for bringing 20 new immigrants to Israel:

**Ginjamang Singson**

“I am from the Beit Shalom community of Monglenphai in Manipur, India. I thank God for making this happen. I cannot wait to meet my relatives who already made Aliyah. It has been more than ten years since we last met! The expectation is especially great for my wife, who will be meeting her niece and nephew for the first time since they were born. It is truly a blessing for us to be united and meet with our loved ones in Eretz Israel after a long separation. Thank you once again, and long live ICEJ!”

**Seingul Lotjem (Hebrew name: Obed)**

“I am from the Beit Shalom community in the village of Churachandpur in Manipur, India. I am very excited about the upcoming Aliyah to Israel; it has always been my dream to return to Zion. It is especially emotional for me because my beloved father and mother made Aliyah back in the year 2000, and we have not seen each other since then, so of course I miss them very much. My brothers have already made Aliyah, so I am overwhelmed to think that I will be able to meet them again and be reunited with my family thanks to Hashem and His kindness. Thank you to ICEJ for helping our lost tribe return home.”

The ICEJ has latched on to their dream and has made it part of its vision: “It’s a part of the DNA of ICEJ to work to fulfil these biblical prophesies to help the Jews come home to their biblical homeland,” says ICEJ’s VP of Operations Barry Denison in the forthcoming documentary on the historic immigration process of the Ethiopian Jews. The personal stories you will hear are stories of heartbreak, devastation, courage, growth and triumph as the ICEJ explores not only the biblical significance of Ethiopian Aliyah, but also the personal dreams of Ethiopian olim to reunite with their families, thrive and contribute to Israeli society. We hope that you will dare to dream bigger as you are inspired and encouraged by the testimony of God’s people coming home.

The stirring and inspiring documentary about the history and background of contemporary Ethiopian Aliyah will premiere at the ICEJ’s 2018 Feast of Tabernacles. Keep an eye out for further details in future issues.
The rebirth of Israel seventy years ago had a tremendous impact throughout the world, especially among Jews, Christians and Muslims. Each of these religious communities reacted in differing ways to the dramatic events of May 1948, which sent out shock waves that are still reverberating to this day.

When considering Israel’s re-emergence as a nation seventy years ago, it must first be remembered that this did not happen in a vacuum. The world did not just wake up one day and find the Jewish state on its doorstep. Rather, Israel’s national rebirth occurred within a certain historical context, and that context is forever linked to the Holocaust. The miracle of restored Jewish sovereignty in Eretz Israel is only magnified when we take into account that it took place just three years after the horrific depths of the Nazi genocide against the Jews were exposed. The Holocaust marked the nadir of the Jewish people’s long and arduous journey of wandering among the nations. And yet just three years after they hit their lowest point, the Jewish people were able to attain something which had eluded them for nearly two millennia – national independence back in their ancient homeland.

SO IT IS fair to say that the rebirth of Israel came as something of a shock to the Jewish people themselves. Their response was one of relief and a feeling of historic vindication. For centuries, the Christian world in particular had insisted that the Jews were cursed to endless wanderings for killing Christ, and yet here they were back in charge of their own country once again. This demonstrated that God still had an enduring covenant relationship with the Jews. The Israeli people also were determined to use their newfound freedom to defend themselves from another Holocaust.

MEANTIME, for the Christian world it must be noted first that the Holocaust came as a moral shock to Christianity. We knew that that Christian anti-Semitic teachings had played a central role in the Nazi genocide against the Jews. After all, Hitler had so many willing Christian accomplices to his inhumane crimes against the Jews because the established churches of Europe had taught the people for centuries to hold the Jews in utter contempt.
Still, if we only had the Holocaust, many Christians would point to it as just another example of the ‘curse’ in operation against the Jews. Rather, it was the national rebirth of Israel just three years later which came as such a great theological shock to the Christian world. Suddenly, it was hard to defend the teaching of the permanence of Jewish exile. Therefore, many churches began to reconsider their antagonistic theological positions, such as replacement theology and the odious charge of deicide. The changes brought by the Vatican II Council are examples of the type of much-needed introspection within the Christian world.

However, some church leaders to this day refuse to adjust their theology to match the reality of a restored Israel. They would rather try to change the reality back to fit their theology of a scattered Israel. Thus, we find churches and theologians joining the BDS campaign and other efforts to delegitimise and destroy Israel. How long will they continue to resist God?

FINALLY, the rebirth of Israel in 1948 came as a crushing theological and cultural shock to the Arab and Muslim world. This is because for centuries, Islam had taught Muslims that they belonged to a superior faith and therefore they were a superior people with a natural right to rule over Jews and Christians. This was the religious and legal basis for the unjust dhimmi system which prevailed throughout the Middle East and North Africa for some 1,400 years, relegating Christian and Jewish minorities to second-class citizenship under Muslim domination.

Yet when Israel emerged victorious in 1948, the Arab and Muslim world could not accept it. How could a rag-tag band of inferior Jews, long rejected by their God, best larger Muslim armies on the field of battle? And how could they do so just three years after suffering through the ravages of the Holocaust? This all had to be explained away! And thus emerged the endless string of bizarre conspiracy theories about Israel’s unlikely triumph seventy years ago.

For example, the Western colonialists are said to have conspired to implant Israel in the midst of the Arab world. And the Americans were actually fighting alongside the Jews in 1948. Or the Zionists and Nazis collaborated in the Holocaust to win world sympathy for the Jews and swindle the Arabs and Muslims. Or perhaps the Holocaust was not as bad as some claim, and maybe only 600,000 Jews died – as Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has insisted.

Herein lies the root of Muslim attraction to Zionist conspiracy theories and even Holocaust denial. The evil Jews must have lied and manipulated their way to triumph and independence. Herein also lies the root of Palestinian rejection of Jewish sovereignty anywhere in the Land of Israel to this day. They simply cannot make peace on equal terms with an inherently inferior people, who follow an inferior faith. And the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will not be resolved until this superior Islamist mentality falls.

HAVING said all this, it is hard to deny that the rebirth of Israel seventy years ago was anything but a miracle which defies explanation. Indeed, there were a succession of miracles and inexplicable events great and small which led to Israel’s restoration. For instance, when Theodor Herzl finally had a brief encounter with the German Kaiser, it was not exactly what he planned, yet it set off a competition among the Great Powers of Europe over who would be the patron of his proposed Jewish state. There also was the strange story of how the Ottoman Turks were drawn into World War One, eventually causing them to lose their vast holdings in Arab lands – including Palestine – to the British. And there was, of course, the improbable triumph of that rag-tag band of Jewish defenders over superior Arab forces which gave us the reborn nation of Israel in 1948.

May the miracles continue!
PrayerWave Launch

BY JOSHUA GOODING,
ICEJ PRAYER COORDINATOR

What would happen if every morning, wherever the sun rose, people began their day passionately seeking the heart of God in prayer? What would happen if this wave of prayer circled the earth, covering all 24 time zones, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? This is exactly what God is doing through the ICEJ’s new prayer movement called the PrayerWave.

On Monday May 14th, 2018, the sun crossing over the international date line started a new day with prayer groups joining together for a sunrise prayer meeting in the Pacific Island of Fiji. Eight hours later, we held our first sunrise prayer meeting on the steps of the Haas Promenade overlooking Jerusalem’s Old City. When the day dawned over the continent of North America, forty ICEJ leaders from around the world, who were in Washington DC for the ICEJ International Leadership Conference, also gathered together to seek the Lord in prayer that morning.

This PrayerWave launch was a day of miracles! As we stood praying over Jerusalem, we knew that something historic was happening. Only a few hundred metres away was the very place where the US Embassy was officially going to open that morning! This courageous act to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and stand in support of the State of Israel is an inspiration to nations around the world. On this same day, there were fires burning in Gaza and many gathering to protest. As we stood praying over the city of Jerusalem, we knew that our prayers during this time was vital for the nation of Israel.

After the first day of the launch, people from twenty-seven nations in fourteen time zones had already signed up. This brings us closer to our goal of having every time zone covered in prayer as the sun comes over the horizon, creating a 24/7 dynamic.

As we seek the Lord every morning in prayer, we believe we will see the Spirit of God pouring out His glory over the earth as the waves cover the sea. As you turn your attention to God, do you hear His call to be a part of this global PrayerWave? Take courage and boldly take your place in this powerful work of God!

Join the PrayerWave today and share this with your church, local prayer house and friends!

SIGN UP TODAY AT: WWW.ICEJPRAYERWAVE.COM
As Arise Director, I had the privilege to speak at the “U-Turn Young Adults Conference”, held in southern Finland in the city of Kerava. The conference was uplifting and drew a great crowd of young adults who were hungry for God and His word. “Today I learned things about the Bible that I have never heard before. The Bible is truly a living book!” said Mikko. “I think today I understood that Jesus had to be Jewish and it was no random thing, but it was for a specific purpose,” said Sonja. Many young adults came asking questions about what is happening in Israel, Gaza and the Middle East. The interest is there, but often the full picture and reality of these complicated matters are missing. Therefore, the ICEJ wants to continue connecting with the young generation across the world to teach and inspire them about God, Israel, their calling and how they fit into the picture in accordance with the Bible.

“How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.” (Psalm 119:9)

LEARN MORE ABOUT ARISE AT: WWW.ARISEGENERATION.ORG

GENERATION Z

BY KAYLA ELLINGSWORTH

Each generation has its own unique set of characteristics, gifts and downfalls. Ossie Mills, Vice President of Global Communications and Marketing at Oral Roberts University, shared his findings at chapel at the ICEJ Headquarters about “Generation Z”. This generation is born from 1997-2014, and are known to be smart, creative, strategic, fun, and curious risk-takers. Technology makes them feel like anything is possible. Generation Z’s main downfall is that their excessive amount of exposure to media easily influences them in many different directions.

Generation Z spends 74% of their free time online, therefore the most effective way to reach them with the truth of the gospel is through social media. Generation Z values truth, so sharing the raw word of God will bear much fruit in their lives! A great way to connect with and disciple Generation Z is through genuine relationships both in one-on-one and group settings.

Please join us in prayer for this promising but vulnerable generation!

1. Pray for Generation Z to stand firm in the truth of Jesus and not be swayed by worldly influence in the media.

2. Pray that the older generations will reach out to Generation Z by taking the time to understand and disciple them.

3. Pray for God to pour out His Spirit over Generation Z to inspire their creative and fearless hearts to impact the world for His glory!

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.” (Joel 2:28)
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BY MALCOLM HEDDING

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THE TEMPLE, ITS MINISTRY AND SERVICES AT THE TIME OF JESUS
BY DR EDERSHEIM

Jerusalem’s temple represented not only the glory of Israel’s past but the splendor of its future, when the Messiah would come and reign over God’s people. Eminent scholar of Judaism and the New Testament, Alfred Edersheim, recaptures the essence of the Temple’s significance, both in the life of Israel and in the life and theology of the early Christians. Readers who want to experience the grandeur of Herod’s Temple - the Temple that Jesus “cleansed” - or the anguish of a Temple trodden down by Roman soldiers will appreciate Edersheim’s knowledge of and passion for the Temple of Scripture. Readers will also welcome this newly typeset, highly readable edition with illustrations and marginal references from Scripture, Philo, Josephus and the Mishnah.

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“Jerusalem” in Hebrew and English. The outer edges are encircled with a delicate floral design of pomegranates.

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Instead of pointing north, this special compass points in the direction of Jerusalem no matter where you are on the globe. Fashioned from pure solid brass, the lid is deeply embossed with a Jewish Star of David and the word “Jerusalem” in Hebrew and English. The outer edges are encircled with a delicate floral design of pomegranates.

9.99 USD

Jerusalem: A Praise in the Earth

Decisive aspects of Jerusalem’s enduring importance are expertly captured in this collection of essays and teachings by accomplished writers: Dr Jürgen Bühler, President of the ICEJ, and David Parsons, VP - International Spokesman.

VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL PURCHASES!

Go to: ICEJSTORE.COM and use the discount code: WFW2018ICEJ – The special 10% discount for your purchases at Embassy Resources is valid until 31/12/18
Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.

Isaiah 66:8

When His disciples asked Jesus for His views on the end times, He pointed to the “days of Noah” as the key to unlock the timing of “the coming of the Son of Man.” But what exactly did He mean by that? FLOODGATES unravels precisely what happened in the Flood of Noah and explains why this important biblical event is such a fitting analogy for our day. This book offers a clear biblical paradigm for determining where we are on the prophetic timetable, based on the actual teachings of Jesus and the apostles.

“a masterful explanation...of the coming of the Son of Man”
– Gordon Robertson, CEO, Christian Broadcasting Network

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WHERE ARE WE ON THE PROPHETIC TIMETABLE?

David R. Parsons is an author, attorney, journalist, ordained minister, and Middle East specialist who serves as Vice President and Senior Spokesman for the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

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The twin celebrations of Israel’s 70th anniversary and the move of the US Embassy to Jerusalem made Washington DC a very fitting venue for the ICEJ’s International Leaders Conference (ILC), our annual global leadership gathering. We began our conference by saluting the historic and prophetic decision by the Trump administration to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel and to move its embassy there.

The ICEJ will continue to lobby nations around the world to establish their embassies in Jerusalem, and we will honour the head of state of the countries who move their embassies to Israel’s capital with the “Cyrus Award”, inspired by King Cyrus who said to Jerusalem: “Be built!” (Isa. 45:26)

In recent issues, we have written about the embassy move, the 50th Jubilee of Jerusalem’s reunification and the 70th Anniversary of Israel. We recognise that these events represent a new season of restoration and of new things that God is doing in Israel. Going forward, these are some of the major trends the ICEJ will be focusing on regionally in the Middle East and globally throughout the Body of Christ.

The geopolitical shift in the Middle East
The Middle East today has changed in ways that were unpredictable by any intelligence agency five to seven years ago. Israel has in recent decades become a global player that is contributing much in terms of scientific research and technological prowess. Instead of being perceived as a problem child, Israel is increasingly seen as a blessing and a light unto the nations. The ICEJ has a good message of restoration that will also bless the Church.

Arab alliances with Israel
The most astonishing regional development is the radical shift in attitude towards Israel in the Arab world. This is nothing short of miraculous. Some Arab states see Israel today more as an asset to the region than a threat. In the ICEJ, we need to ask God for divine strategies to pray effectively for these Arab nations and their relationship with Israel.

The Global Church
We continue to see the trend of the Global Church opening for Israel. This is true not only in the ‘global south’ but also more and more in western countries. Interest in Israel is growing on every level. There are far more opportunities for our movement today than challenges.

Prayer paves the way
The world is shifting rapidly. It is a time of shaking that will reveal those things that are unshakable (Heb 12:27). To stay relevant toward the purposes of God, it is essential that we draw our global ministry closer to Jesus than ever before. I pray that we all hear the Lion of Judah roaring in these days, and that God places us in position to be ready for the next big thing He is doing.

Israel Gala
Following the ILC, many ICEJ leaders were able to attend the US branch’s Seventy and Strong event. The sold-out Washington DC event began with a gala dinner on Sunday evening held at the beautiful, new Museum of the Bible. While there were many highlights to the evening, a letter from US Vice President Mike Pence and a video greeting directly from Prime Minister Netanyahu himself reminded everyone that our special marking of this day was noted in the highest halls of government. Keynote Speakers were Reuven Azar, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Israel in Washington DC; and Gary Bauer, Washington Director of the CUFI Action Fund.

Participants from over 40 countries, including leaders from dozens of American Christian organisations as well as over 50 Millennial leaders, demonstrated that the movement of Christian support for Israel is global, broad-based, and is positioning itself for the future.
EMBASSY OPENINGS

Guatemala repeats brave historical act
This year’s Jerusalem Day on 13 May was the last for the ICEJ as Jerusalem’s lone embassy. The next day we were joined by the US and shortly thereafter by Guatemala and Paraguay. This is why on 16 May, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem delivered its new Cyrus Award to President Jimmy Morales of Guatemala in honour of his nation’s decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to move its Embassy to the Holy City.

The Cyrus Award is a special honour bestowed on those national leaders who distinguish themselves by officially recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and by moving their embassies to the city, out of respect for its historic status as the centre of Jewish national, religious and cultural life and aspirations.

Dr Luis Solares was instrumental in his nation’s decision to move its embassy and it was a joy and honour for him to join the opening ceremony. The ICEJ’s Spanish translator, Claudia Fierro, was on scene for the opening of the Guatemalan embassy, and recounts the excitement from the historical event:

"The opening of the new embassy is an event unparalleled in Guatemalan history since Jorge Garcia Granados, Ambassador of Guatemala to the UN, cast the very first vote for the creation of the State of Israel, making Guatemala the first Latin American Country to recognise Israel after the State was proclaimed in 1948. Indeed, it takes courage for a small, third-world country to make such a decision and jeopardise its already precarious diplomatic ties to nations more powerful and prosperous. Yet 70 years later, Guatemala did it again, President Jimmy Morales went against the current and made the move, and the Embassy of Guatemala raised its flag in Jerusalem."

Paraguay sprints to third place
In a surprise move, Paraguay cinched third place among the nations moving their embassies to Jerusalem on Monday, 21 May 2018. In honour of Paraguay recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, ICEJ President Jürgen Bühler personally presented the Cyrus Award to Paraguay’s President, Horacio Cartes. Prime Minister Netanyahu was also present at the opening and promised that now is the time for cooperation between the two countries to “flow like water.” ☺️
A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

BY KAYLA ELLINGSWORTH

Vacations are a time for families to get away from their daily routines, so they can have fun and enjoy one another. But what happens if you are a child that is unable to live with your family due to an environment that is traumatic and unsafe? The 125 children at a unique therapeutic centre in Jerusalem that the ICEJ partners with know how it feels to be without a family. These children have suffered severe emotional, behavioural and learning disabilities caused by abuse and trauma. Many are removed from their family and home as early as age eight, and may remain at the centre until they turn 18.

While many of the children may be able to visit their families for an occasional weekend vacation, some of the children aren’t able to be in contact with their families at all. Naturally, this leaves them feeling abandoned and alone when other children leave for family visits. Those children with nowhere to go began asking the staff if they could go home with them. Therefore, the idea to give these children a special vacation experience was born, which includes special programs, excursions, and entertainment while staying in a special vacation cottage.

ICEJ AID was able to provide furniture for the new vacation cottage due to the generosity of the late Herschel Graff, a man who loved Israel and her people, and this is why we would like to share about Herschel’s life and honour his legacy (see article on right). ☞

HERSCHEL GRAFF’S LIFE AND CONTINUED LEGACY

BY DAN HERRON

We know God sees everything and that nothing we do is beyond His attention. Sometimes God gives us a glimpse of the hidden things that take place in people’s lives to inspire us and give us pause. Learning about Herschel Graff’s life is sure to instil inspiration and provide food for thought.

In 1927, two important arrivals took place: Charles Lindbergh landed in Paris after completing history’s first transatlantic flight, and Herschel Graff made his arrival into the world on the American side of the Atlantic. The impact of the second arrival was not historic, but Herschel’s life would prove to have great spiritual impact on the world. In his adult life, Herschel was an inhabitant to Jerusalem where his love for Israel brought him to the newly liberated city back in the late 1960s. He cared deeply for its people and their wellbeing. Even when he returned to his native Texas, he remained a staunch supporter of Israel in word and deed, contributing his time toward prayer for Israel and his finances to the betterment of the Jewish people.

At the end of his life, Herschel entrusted the ICEJ to bless Israel one final time by leaving a generous bequest to ICEJ AID. His decision enabled us to:

• Sponsor a leadership and educational programme for 50 youth at risk, which assures these youths will successfully complete school and receive assistance starting out in life as young adults

• Purchase furniture for a vacation cottage for a youth village providing therapeutic care for traumatised youth (see article on left)

• Provide vital practical aid, counselling, and hope and healing for addicts, homeless and women in crisis

• Design a physiotherapy room and provide equipment for the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors

• Purchase computers for a new computer room in a Druze middle school in the Golan Heights

• Provide scholarships for disadvantaged young people to give them a better future

• Fund an after-school enrichment programme for Ethiopian Israeli immigrant children

Throughout Herschel’s life, the downtrodden and outcast were objects of his concern and affection, both in Israel and in countries around the world. The ICEJ honours the memory of Herschel Graff and is thankful for his legacy. Please prayerfully consider to mention the ICEJ in your will. For more information, please contact finance@icej.org ☞

DONATE ONLINE

To support this powerful work of mercy, please visit: int.icej.org/aid/relief-work

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Without a sound, I could hear love echoing down the hallways in the school for the deaf through the smiles and the interactions between teachers and students. Tucked away in a neighbourhood here in Jerusalem is a spectacular school dedicated to the education of deaf kids from ages 6-21. The principal of the school, Gila, is deeply passionate about helping young deaf students receive a great education, learn practical skills for everyday life and impact society! The ICEJ has partnered with this school for over 20 years, and will continue to support this great work.

Uniquely, this school provides some teachers who are deaf, so they can relate with the students because they know exactly how it feels to be deaf. The gym teacher, Lolik, was born deaf and was the only one deaf in his family. Every time his family would try to speak to him in sign language, they would be in a hurry or couldn’t think of the word, so they told him they would tell him later. Sadly, they never got around to talking to him later.

Having overcome these difficult experiences from social interactions, Lolik now gets to teach his students how to cope with these feelings of loneliness and rejection. Lolik explained, “Being a part of a social community is very important because this is the hardest thing for a deaf person.” The community at the school provides a great opportunity for these kids to socialize and make friends with other kids and teachers.

The ICEJ has helped this school by providing many different needs, such as purchasing commercial kitchen blenders for their cooking classes; purchasing a covering for the playground for the extremely hot summer days in Israel; upgrading the internet system; purchasing furniture, and much more. Gila explained, “The Christian Embassy has given us breath to help them (the students) dream again!”

The nation of Israel has also recognised how special this school is, giving it the National Education Award for 2018!

STANDING WITH THE YOUTH OF ISRAEL

A significant segment of Israel’s youth have no family support as they complete high school and transition into adulthood. Having been removed from their families at a young age, due to an unsafe environment or parents’ inability to care for them, these young people have grown up in boarding schools, children’s homes and foster care systems. As soon as they turn 18, they must leave their temporary home, and often have nowhere to go.

With only a few organisations in Israel that provide support and mentoring for these youths, the ICEJ sees a great need to provide practical assistance and vocational training for these young people, who are the future of Israel. We want to introduce you to two of the many young people we have assisted in finding a future and a hope.

Immediately after completing her national service, Dalit began studying education at a boarding school with a small grant from the national service. As a young woman with no family support, Dalit started working two jobs as well as keeping up with her studies. Hearing about Dalit’s situation, the ICEJ helped her purchase a computer, gave her a scholarship for her studies, and paid for an evaluation for learning disabilities, which helped her succeed in her studies.

Miriam is a creative young woman with great talent in sewing and a passion for clothing design. She has a mentor who helps her pursue her own business, and the ICEJ also helped Miriam pursue this dream by providing a scholarship for a sewing course. Already eager to begin marketing her own clothing designs, Miriam started selling her clothing independently online. In the future, the ICEJ would like to help Miriam take a clothing design course and assist her in opening a small business at home.

These young people may not have a biological family to provide the critical support they need; however, they have a family of Christians all around the world who are willing and able to support them.
Homecare often hears stories from aging Russian immigrants who have lived through war and tyranny. As their trust in the ICEJ staff grows, more of their stories come to light.

In Soviet Russia, Stalin’s harsh repression meant any expression of faith was forbidden; therefore, Sofia’s family lit the Sabbath candles in secret. When she was three years old, her older brother, mother, and herself fled to escape the German invasion of Russia. After the war, they returned to find their house taken over by others, along with a shocking discovery of a heap of skeletons nearby. Despite death all around, Sofia’s mother gave birth to a baby girl named Faina. Shortly after, Sofia’s father died, so her mother remarried a widower with four children. He lovingly cared for the family, despite sharing a home with other families in the bitter cold.

Growing up, Faina was restricted in her studies because of her Jewish identity, yet she managed to train and qualify as a teacher. In 1990, following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, Sofia and Faina finally came home to Israel! Faina could not find a teaching job, so she accepted a factory job and was thankful just to be in Israel. She recounted, “My father always said, ‘Go to Israel.’”

When dear Sofia became ill, Homecare nurse Corrie Van Maanen, visited her each week to assist her during her two years of illness. After Sofia passed away, Faina could not bear Homecare’s visits to cease, so Corrie continued her friendship with her. Corrie was a special person for Faina and someone with whom she could share her heart. Above all, Corrie was a faithful friend who had helped care for Faina’s beloved sister.

The faithful service of Homecare provides not only practical assistance, but also deep friendship that powerfully displays the love of God! To be a part of this great work, please visit: int.icej.org/homecare
The Israeli-Druze partnership is a remarkable testimony to both parties of the relationship. From its inception Israel has offered peace to the Arab populations in the land, but the majority of Arabs rejected this offer. The Druze chose a different path. Like the Jews, the Druze have historically suffered as a minority because even though they are ethnically Arab, the Druze adhere to a non-Islamic faith. This has resulted in a sense of solidarity reflected by high participation rates in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Today 83% of all Druze men perform army service, and 56% serve in the IDF’s combat units. This percentage is even higher than what is normal for the Jewish population.

It is important to reward and encourage this loyalty, and this is why the ICEJ supports scholarships for outstanding students who meet rigorous criteria in terms of academic performance and urgent need, as in the following case.

Two girls from a family with average income started to study medicine, but after the first year the family experienced financial hardship and had to pull them out of their studies. That very year, the ICEJ awarded five scholarships of NIS 10,000 to five outstanding students in medicine.

One of the sisters was among the five who received this scholarship. The other sister received NIS 2,000. Because of this, the father encouraged both daughters to continue their studies. Today the first daughter has finished her degree and is working as a doctor in the hospital, while the second daughter is close to finishing her studies now.

Because of these scholarships, the number of Druze students who start their academic studies increases year by year. “The ICEJ plays a very important part in this success and the fruits we are already seeing. We still have a way to go together to reach the point where we have bridged the gap between young Druze and the rest of the population in Israel. We appreciate you, commend you and love you,” says Mofied Amar from our Druze partner organisation.

The Druze community is a strategic blessing to Israel, so we hope that you will consider blessing and encouraging their next generation in return.

To help Israel’s Druze minority, please go to: int.icej.org/relief-work

Despair is an overwhelming feeling for those trapped in the grip of drug or alcohol addiction. Oasis of Hope is a programme the ICEJ has partnered with that provides practical help and restoration for addicts seeking a new path in life. Raja Salameh knows personally what it is like to struggle with addiction, which is why he has a deep passion and calling to help others overcome their struggles. He shared with us, “Over thirty years ago, God set me free. Now, I want to help others find that same release from bondage.”

The ICEJ has come alongside Raja to help him begin a formal ministry in his Arab community. Born and raised in the Old City of Jerusalem, Raja sees the reality of the lives and families that are being destroyed by addictions. With this passion in his heart, Raja faithfully interacts with the men in his community to help them receive freedom.

Raja mentors, prays for and encourages Arabic-speaking men who are making the difficult choice to start anew. Some succeed, and yet, with great heartache, we see others slip back into the trap of addiction. Many remain stuck in a pit of despair and are longing for freedom, so join us in this powerful work so we can hear more people say: “He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and broke their chains in pieces.” (Psalm 107:14)

To help many more discover hope, please go to: int.icej/aid
Many of Israel’s first Jewish pioneers in the 1800s came out of Eastern Europe and Russia. Today, Aliyah from these regions continues to be strong and urgent. Last year more than half of worldwide Aliyah (53%) was from three former Soviet states: Russia, Ukraine and Belarus. In eastern Ukraine, the protracted conflict with Russian-backed separatists simmers on and continues to heavily affect life throughout Ukraine. So far, 10,000 have died and 1.7m people have been internally displaced with an estimated 3.8m in need of urgent assistance. Aliyah from Ukraine has surged as thousands of Jewish refugees from eastern Ukraine have decided that they must finally move to Israel. There is no future for them in Ukraine because the nation is experiencing a very difficult economic situation.

The ICEJ continues to prioritise Aliyah work from this distressed country, where we also assist the Jewish Agency by sponsoring fast-track Aliyah seminars to help the Jewish people to get ready for their new lives in Israel. These seminars in the near-abroad are pivotal because they give potential immigrants a chance to discuss their future in a more free atmosphere.

Working the dream – Aliyah Preparation
For all the yearning that the Jewish soul has for the ancestral homeland, Israel is, for most, a very novel country with a different culture. Learning and preparing builds up confidence in new immigrants to make the leap to this new world. In Ukraine, emissaries from the Jewish Agency carry out Aliyah encouragement and preparation services, and are responsible for meeting with potential new immigrants, providing all the necessary information they require and exposing them to various options for life in Israel, including educational and employment opportunities.

One crucial area of activities that emissaries organise is weekend seminars for families (ages 25-50) and young adults (ages 18-30). The overall goal is to help prospective new immigrants ensure the best possible absorption process. Examples of topics covered at the seminars include: Israeli current events, Jewish holidays and the Jewish life cycle, the history of Israel and the Jewish people, the absorption process in Israel and the rights of new immigrants, the Israeli education and health systems, higher education, professional/vocational training programmes, and the ins and outs of the Israeli job market. This preparation is vital for giving newcomers a good start in Israel and ensures that new immigrants become net contributors to the Israeli economy early on. Help make Israel stronger by investing in solid fundamentals for new immigrants.

To be a part of this great work, please visit: int.icej.org/aid/Aliyah

QUIET DESPERATION IN UKRAINE

BY HOWARD FLOWER AND THE JEWISH AGENCY

ICEJ Finland and ICEJ Russia held an event in Finland from 12-13 May to celebrate Israel’s 70th. The “Eva” choir and dance troupe from the Jewish community in St Petersburg came to Finland to give two performances in Tampere and Helsinki. The Finnish audience gave the Russian Jews a standing ovation for their impressive and professional performance. The Eva foundation has been a constant partner through 28 years and its founder, Lev Mendelevitch, helped establish the Finnish Aliyah route that began after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Eighty members of the Eva Foundation, comprising singers, dancers, artists, choreographers, composers and musicians participated in this remarkable three-day event, which also included art exhibitions dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust and the Finnish book launch about two little girls who lived through the Holocaust. The prints and books can now go to Finnish schools to promote Holocaust awareness among young people and their teachers.
In the beginning of May, 1,500 Christians from various church backgrounds gathered in Stuttgart for a 70th anniversary celebration of the State of Israel, sponsored by the German Branch of the ICEJ. Among the special guests from Israel were Shaya Ben Yehuda, Managing Director of the International Relations Division at Yad Vashem, Rabi Jitzhak Naki from Jerusalem and Pastor Daniel Yahav from Tiberias. “Anti-Israel sentiment and anti-Semitism are gaining momentum again,” stated Gottfried Bühler, Director of ICEJ Germany. “But the God of Israel is bigger than any kind of anti-Semitism. We stand with the God of Israel and His people, and we will continue our fight against anti-Semitism.” The festive programme included times of worship and intercession for Israel, the rendition of parts of Händel’s Messiah sung in Hebrew, and a dynamic dance performance by a local dance troupe. The special representative for the fight against anti-Semitism of the State of Baden Württemberg, Dr Michael Blume, addressed the gathering, as well as other Jewish and Christian leaders from ministries and organisations across Germany. The outpouring of support and love for Israel left a deep impression on the Jewish guests.
LIVE DONATION FOR THE ICEJ’S ISRAEL MINISTRY

In May, ICEJ VP & Spokesman David Parsons travelled to Dallas, Texas, for an appearance on Daystar’s premiere programme, “Marcus and Joni Live”. He shared about the work of the Christian Embassy in Jerusalem and also discussed his new book “Floodgates”. During the live broadcast, co-host Marcus Lamb made a $25,000 donation on behalf of Daystar to the ICEJ for its ongoing outreach and ministry in Israel.

WATERSHED JERUSALEM DAY RECEPTION

This year’s Jerusalem Day Reception at the ICEJ was one of kind. In the ensuing week, we would be joined by three embassies, a spectacular new beginning of what God wants to do here in Jerusalem!

Guatemala was the second nation to make the bold move, and we were privileged to host Ambassador Sara Angelina Solis at our Jerusalem Day Reception. The ambassador gave a moving speech, expressing her Christian faith and how honoured she felt for God to have chosen her to be the one to bring the Embassy of Guatemala back to Jerusalem!

Support the ICEJ’s global ministry to the nations: int.icej.org/donate

YOUNG CHRISTIAN LEADERS MEET THE ICEJ

This June the ICEJ engaged with a group of young Christians who were participating in a seminar for future Christian leaders, organised by Christian Friends of Yad Vashem. The ICEJ was part of an all-star team assembled to bring these enthusiastic and knowledge-hungry young adults up to speed on all things Israel, both past, present and future. Following a geo-strategic briefing by a former Israeli ambassador to Egypt and Sweden, Publications Director Dan Herron introduced the audience to the ICEJ’s pivotal role in Israel advocacy, the impact of ICEJ AID and the Christian Embassy’s global network. Dan also gathered valuable insight into how the ICEJ can best serve the next generation of aspiring Christian leaders and Israel advocates.
REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL
BY MOJMIR KALLUS

After the successful launch of regional meetings last October, we held the ICEJ’s second regional conference in Istanbul for Russian-speaking branches. Twenty-one participants from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uzbekistan attended. Mojmir Kallus, VP for International Affairs represented the international team with regional coordinators Serguei Popov and Kari Niemi.

Most of the leaders were new members of the ICEJ family, so they appreciated detailed presentations and discussions about our DNA, as well as practical steps explaining how to grow a branch. On this occasion, our new Russian website was launched to serve Russian-speakers all over the world.

There was enough time for all participants to share about their work, get to know each other and pray for one another. The same excitement and team spirit that characterised the regional meeting in Belgrade was felt again in Istanbul.

ICEJ ITALY MAKES STRATEGIC MOVE
BY MOJMIR KALLUS

The ICEJ’s Italian branch is positioning itself for the next stage in its contribution to the ICEJ’s work for Israel. The branch is working toward setting up a regional structure in Italy with three centres, respectively in the North, in Rome and in Sicily. The national branch office will relocate to Rome, which is a strategic move to engage members of the Italian parliament.

As part of these efforts, ICEJ VP & Spokesman David Parsons was invited by National Director Rev Tony Rozzini to speak at a one-day regional conference in Bergamo, situated in Italy’s northern region. The ICEJ’s VP for International Affairs, Mojmir Kallus followed up with a weekend of ministry where he spoke at the Alfa-Omega church in Rome. Here he also met with Rev Tony Rozzini to share ideas and offer support for the new push. With a great team on the ground and a sound regional structure in place, we expect good news from our Italian branch.
Join the ICEJ and Christians from around the world at the Feast of Tabernacles in September.

Be in Jerusalem to celebrate Israel’s 70th anniversary as an independent nation.

$470
Full registration: Admission to all public Feast related events, including Ein Gedi, Communion at the Garden Tomb, and the Jerusalem March.

$1395
The ICEJ also offers a land package programme to provide a hotel for 7 nights, transportation to Feast events and more. Land package rates begin at $1395.00 and include the registration fee.

feast.icej.org
We look forward to seeing you in Jerusalem.
Dare to Dream!