UNITED JERUSALEM AT 50
Celebrating God's Promises
Dear friends,

These past weeks have been packed with exciting and historic events and opportunities. An ICEJ team, led by our VP for Operations, Barry Denison, hazarded a visit to the Jewish community in Gondar, Ethiopia. The report they returned with was heartbreaking and strengthened our conviction to do everything in our power to help Ethiopian Jews return home. An administrative bottleneck now seems to have been overcome, and the first immigrants are arriving after a long delay.

I will never forget my visit to Fiji on the 50th anniversary for Jerusalem’s reunification. The trip was also the last one with our International Director, Juha Ketola. We will greatly miss him but also look forward to working with incoming VP for International Affairs Mojmir Kallus.

A truly historic and very blessed event was the very first prayer breakfast held by the Knesset under the auspices of Reuven Rivlin, the President of Israel. We at the ICEJ felt honored to play our part in the event and its preparations. In addition, we again welcomed over 90 leaders from more than 40 nations to our annual ILC leadership conference. And of course, the past weeks have been marked by the visit of a very favorable US President, Donald Trump.

These are just a few of the many exciting events that took place in recent weeks. Jerusalem is indeed an exciting place, and we see in so many ways how this city is becoming more and more a place where the nations come to hear the word of the Lord.

This year marks a special Jubilee for Jerusalem. The fiftieth Jubilee is a divine declaration that marks the favor of the Lord. It is a year when possessions revert to their original owners – a year of release. Therefore we can expect God to touch Jerusalem and its inhabitants in a unique way this year. What this will mean remains yet to be seen. But I know that God will bless it in a unique way. The greatest blessing would surely be the fulfilment of Zechariah’s great prophecy: “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, …” (Zech. 12:10). Let us all pray together that this year indeed will be the year of the Lord’s favor on Jerusalem!

Yours in Christ from Jerusalem,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ President
CONTENTS

4 JERUSALEM, A PRAISE IN THE EARTH

8 REMEMBERING THE EXODUS

14 THE TOUCH THAT HEALS

21 ICEJ-PHILIPPINES UPDATE

23 PRAYER OPENS UP NEW FRONTIERS
JERUSALEM, A PRAISE IN THE EARTH

The Significance of the City of God: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

BY DR. JÜRGEN BÜHLER
4000 years ago, God chose the Mesopotamian merchant Abraham and gave him a destiny that would radically change the world (Genesis 12:1-3). With Abraham, God chose a people to whom He promised great things. These promises of blessing for Israel were not given as an end to itself. It was not about God choosing a favorite people for himself from all the nations on the earth. It was much more than that. The purpose of God’s calling of Abraham and his descendants after him was to save the whole earth. “... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you!” (Genesis 12:3) Paul saw already a first proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ in this promise. “Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’” (Galatians 3:8)

The land and the people
The fact which is often ignored is that God chose not only the people – “from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah” (Romans 9:5) – but also a geographical place. God not only promised to Abraham to make him a great and blessed nation, but he also assured him of a “land I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1) As Abraham’s descendants are supposed to be a blessing to all families of the earth, this special stretch of land is of strategic significance for the salvation of mankind. In a way, it is the bridgehead connecting heaven and earth. In other words, in the land of Canaan, God opened the door for all mankind to gain free access to the kingdom of God.

Epicenter Jerusalem
The epicenter of this special and promised land is the city of Jerusalem. Abraham had two powerful experiences there, which would impress an eternal and momentous seal on the city. First, Abraham had an encounter with the mysterious King Melchizedek. Melchizedek was the King of Salem, later called Jerusalem. He approached Abraham with bread and wine acting as both the king of peace and the king of righteousness. Melchizedek was not only a worldly ruler but combined the office of a priest with that of a sovereign king – a distinctly messianic quality. The author of the epistle to the Hebrews also envisioned Melchizedek as a forerunner of the promised savior of the world. After his fellowship with Melchizedek, Abraham would return once more to the mountainous area of Jerusalem when God ordered him to sacrifice his beloved son Isaac, the son of promise. Abraham ascended this mountain in obedience, while fully assured in faith that God was able to raise his son from the dead (Hebrews 11:19).

Almost a thousand years had to pass, until it was King David who ultimately realized the significance of this place. He relocated the capital of his kingdom to Jerusalem, understanding that God was going to establish His temple in this very city. The temple was not supposed to be just a Jewish house of prayer. The word of God teaches us that even the stranger who did not belong to the people of Israel was able to find the God of Israel there “in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you.” (1 Kings 8:43) Therefore, at a later time, Isaiah would call the temple “a house of prayer for all nations.” (Isaiah 56:7)

The promise in Babylon
For many Jews the world collapsed when, after several conquests of Jerusalem, the Babylonians destroyed the Temple in the year 480 BC. How could God allow this to happen? The ones taken away didn’t understand God anymore or what was happening to them. “By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.” (Psalm 137:1) It was the prophet Daniel who never gave up hope for Jerusalem and who understood like no one else the eternal purpose of this eternal city. As a high official in the Babylonian Empire, a role that could be compared to that of a prime minister today, Daniel prayed for the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the return of the Jewish people
from Babylon. “While I was speaking, and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the Lord my God for his holy hill” Daniel recounted, “the man Gabriel” appeared to him and instructed him.

His words preoccupied many theologians and Bible researchers for centuries. “Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophecy, and to anoint a most holy place.” (Daniel 9:24) There is hardly a more explicit passage in the Bible which describes the unique calling of the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem as clearly and distinctly as this one. God appointed a certain time frame for the Jewish people and the city of Jerusalem in which He would fulfill the following tasks: to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophecy, and to anoint a most holy place.

There is no other city on earth with such a calling.

1. Finish transgression: The transgression of God’s commandments is the huge problem of humanity. “They have all turned aside,” the psalmist declared. (Psalm 14:3) But there will be an end to this disease of rebellion against God and his commandments.

2. Put an end to sin: The root of human rebellion against God originates in the nature of man. Ungodliness has its source in our hearts, Jesus explained, “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.” (Matthew 15:19) No human is immune from it. But this sinful nature of man shall be put off. The Hebrew word also allows the translation “will be sealed.” That is, God will seal this source completely, once and for all.

3. Atone for iniquity: All sins which have been committed already shall be atoned for. Even if the sins are like crimson and cry out to heaven, they shall be as white as snow. (Isaiah 1:18)

4. Bring in everlasting righteousness: Isaiah proclaims: “My righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations.” (Isaiah 51:8) There won’t be just a brief period of righteousness as there was under King David and King Hezekiah, who were then succeeded by ungodly rulers. This reign of righteousness will last forever: “Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevmore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!” (Isaiah 9:7)

5. Seal both vision and prophecy: All the promises of God, however great and mind-boggling they might be, shall come to fulfillment. Not one iota of God’s promises will be dropped.

6. Anoint a most holy place: This can be everything: A future temple in Israel, the eternal sanctuary of the heavenly Jerusalem, the church as a temple or each individual believer as a temple. John Wesley saw therein primarily the threefold anointing of the Messiah as king, priest and prophet.

“What a marvelous prophecy!” the theologian H. C. Leupold writes. “These six statements include all good things which God pledged to the humans.” Daniel links these tremendous promises tightly to the Jewish people and to the city of Jerusalem. “About your people and your holy city...” Therefore, it is not surprising that Jesus had to fulfill his mission in Jerusalem from the beginning. No other city was qualified for this. On the mountain of transfiguration, Jesus conferred with Moses and Elijah “who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:30-31)

God predestined Jerusalem to be the city for the world’s redemption. Jesus died in Jerusalem “once for all” for the sins of the world. Abraham could see this day to come, as he was binding his son on the altar on mount Moria. (John 8:56) Daniel anticipated that Jesus atoned for the sins of the world outside the city gates on Calvary hill (Golgotha). He conquered death when he rose from the dead and accomplished a complete redemption for humanity.

The model church in Jerusalem

At first, it was a cause of concern for the first disciples that Jesus ascended to heaven from the Mount of Olives in eastern Jerusalem. But Jesus promised them that he would not abandon them. A comforter was to come. And he did come precisely on the Day of Pentecost, again in Jerusalem. The Spirit of God rested like tongues as of fire on each one of the 120 disciples. Ordinary people were filled with the presence of God and started a powerful ministry which brought thousands of people into the Kingdom of God. The first church was founded in Jerusalem. It was a powerful community which relied not only on well-elaborated theological teachings but also on the effective dynamic of the proclamation of the gospel. This Jerusalem church did not believe in cultural adaptation to draw people into the congregation, but they trusted in the changing and miracle-performing power of the Holy Spirit. They did not own cathedrals or big church coffers, but they were able to say: “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” (Acts 3:6) Among all model churches and all revival movements of Christianity, there is none which has more impact on us than the church in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem or Rome?

Tertullian asked once: “What has Jerusalem to do with Athens?” His
answer pointed out that the gospel of Christ has little to do with Greek philosophy. On the contrary, we are well advised through Scripture to look to Jerusalem. The cross and the resurrection, so inherent to Jerusalem, do impact Athens, Berlin, Beijing, New York and the rest of the world. Even today Jesus comes out of the city gates of Jerusalem to approach every human being with bread and wine. Not by chance the psalmist writes: “If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill!” (Psalm 137:5) We should never forget: The cradle of our faith stands in Jerusalem, not in Rome.

**Conflict over Jerusalem**

It is thus not surprising that this city is embattled like no other. The prophet Zechariah foresees a global escalation over the city of Jerusalem: “Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about ... and a burdensome stone for all people ... and all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.” (Zachariah 12:2-3) Jerusalem shall be divided, internationalized or even subordinated to the Vatican. The plans for the future of this city are numerous. God is warning the nations: All who want to lift this burdensome stone “will surely hurt themselves.” Jerusalem is the city of God. (Psalm 46:48) And God is passionately concerned about this city. “I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy.” (Zachariah 1:14; 8:2) When God calls something his own and expresses his zeal so clearly then we would be wise to “let Jerusalem come up on our heart.” (Jeremiah 51:50)

**Jerusalem, our hope**

Not only are our roots in Jerusalem; the hope of our faith also lies there. The redeemer will come back to Jerusalem “in the same way you saw him go up into heaven!” (Acts 1:11) His feet will neither stand in Azusa Street or in Brownsville nor in Wittenberg or Herrnhut but again on the hill east of Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives. At that very time, Christ will take up his Messianic rule as the Prince of Peace. The promises of Daniel will be accomplished completely. Jerusalem will stand firmly established as the head of the nations. “The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 2:3) As a result, they will “beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:1-4) Jerusalem will be a praise in the earth and no longer a cup of trembling for the nations. But this will not happen automatically. God seeks our cooperation. Isaiah describes our task as follows:

“On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the Lord in remembrance, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth!” (Isaiah 62:6-7) God is searching for intercessors who are ready to be involved in his great plan of redemption for the world and for Israel. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! Those who love Jerusalem will prosper! (Psalm 122:6)
REMEmBERING THE EXODUS

BY DAVID PARSONS

The year 2017 is filled with anniversaries of key moments in Israel’s modern history. Foremost among them are the 50-year Jubilee celebrations of Jerusalem being reunited under Israeli sovereignty in June 1967, and the centennial ceremonies marking 100 years since the Balfour Declaration in November 1917. But a third important event which happened 70 years ago will be remembered this July 18th with the dedication of a special memorial to the Exodus ’47, otherwise known as “the ship that launched a nation.”

The Exodus was an old, rickety steamer originally built to traverse the shallow, calm waters of the Chesapeake Bay. But in 1947, she was refitted by the Jewish underground to carry thousands of Holocaust survivors on a desperate voyage across the Mediterranean Sea to break the British blockade and reach the shores of Mandatory Palestine. When the British navy attacked the ship just offshore, the tragic fate of her passengers grabbed world headlines and played a central role in the rebirth of Israel the following spring.

When the Exodus left port in France seventy years ago, she was heavily laden with over 4,500 tattered Jewish refugees who had survived the Nazi genocide and were determined to reach the Land of Israel. But the British had imposed a naval blockade to stop such refugee ships from reaching Palestine, and the passengers knew that, if captured, they would all be sent back to Europe. So the Haganah underground invited a sympathetic American Methodist minister, Rev. John Stanley Grauel, to join the voyage as a reporter who would be free to tell the story of what was about to transpire.

As the overcrowded vessel approached the Israeli coast in the dark of night, a British fleet of six destroyers and a light cruiser closed in. They first sandwiched the Exodus between two destroyers, trying to crush her aging hull. After seven such ramming attempts failed to sink the vessel, British troops armed with machine guns and bully clubs stormed aboard. The defenceless Jews put up what resistance they could. Three were killed and almost 150 injured.

Despite their gallant efforts, the ship was seized and towed to Haifa port, where all of the Jewish passengers were arrested and eventually sent back to Germany.

Yet the British could not apprehend Rev. Grauel, since he was a non-Jew and a US citizen. Instead, he was placed under house arrest at a hotel in Haifa. But this happened to be the very hotel where Western journalists were staying to cover the visit that summer of the UN Special Committee on Palestine, and Grauel began telling the visiting reporters about the brutal ordeal at sea. Then late at night, he was quietly whisked away by the Haganah and smuggled past roadblocks into Jerusalem to tell the UNSCOP committee itself about what had happened.

The UN committee had been holding hearings that summer...
When the Exodus left port in France seventy years ago, she was heavily laden with over 4,500 tattered Jewish refugees who had survived the Nazi genocide and were determined to reach the Land of Israel in order to recommend a solution to the “Palestine problem.” But the eleven-nation commission was refusing to meet with Jewish war refugees still held in displacement camps in Europe. Yet when Grauel described first-hand the British assault on the unarmed refugees aboard the Exodus, it had a profound impact on the committee members.

“The Exodus had no arms,” Grauel told the UNSCOP panel. “All they fought with were potatoes, canned goods, and their bare fists.”

The plight of the Exodus passengers stretched out several months before a worldwide audience, fuelling the committee’s growing sense of its humanitarian mission. Until then, most of its members were leaning against partition and the creation of a Jewish state. But after Grauel pleaded their cause, the committee agreed to visit the camps in Europe to speak directly with Jewish war refugees, who were nearly unanimous in their desire to go to Palestine. Before long, the majority of UNSCOP members concurred that the Jewish people needed a state of their own.

Thus, the testimony of a Christian minister about the British attack on the Exodus became the turning point in UNSCOP’s shift towards accepting Jewish statehood. Grauel would later write of that fateful moment on board the ship, saying it felt as if he were witnessing the battle of “Concord and Lexington... I just knew I was watching the rebirth of a nation.”

Indeed, the well-known journalist Ruth Gruber, who witnessed the commandeered boat docking in Haifa, described the Exodus ’47 as “the ship that launched a nation.”

The vessel remained tied up in Haifa harbour until a mysterious fire burned her to the waterline in 1952. The ship was towed out to deeper waters and sunk. Today, there are markers to her in Italy, France, Germany and Baltimore, Maryland, but ironically there has never been a marker or memorial to the Exodus ’47 in Israel.

That will be rectified this July 18th when Israeli officials, Jewish and Christian leaders, and the last Exodus survivors will gather at the Haifa Port terminal to dedicate a special sculpture and historic marker in memory of her courageous passengers. The effort is being spearheaded by the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation, and the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem will be there as well to mark this historic occasion. Besides paying respects to the brave Jewish refugees on board the Exodus, the ceremonies will duly note the key role of Rev. John Stanley Grauel in her story. Seventy years after her voyage helped birth the nation of Israel, the Exodus ’47 will finally receive her due.
ICEJ HOSTS JERUSALEM DAY EVENTS
BY DAVID PARSONS

As Israel marked fifty years since the city of Jerusalem was reunited, the ICEJ hosted a series of events to mark this historic occasion. In May, we hosted dozens of Israeli officials and local Christian and Jewish leaders for our annual Jerusalem Day reception and dinner on the grounds of the ICEJ. Then during the Six-Day War remembrances in early June, Christian Embassy representatives came in from all over the world for the inaugural Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast and our ministry’s annual Global Leadership Conference. The festivities concluded on June 15 with a special screening on the Embassy grounds of the new documentary film on the 1967 Six-Day War entitled In Our Hands, produced by CBN. The film features first-hand interviews with members of the IDF’s 55th Paratroopers Brigade who liberated the Old City of Jerusalem fifty years ago, as well as an all-Israeli cast of actors performing re-enactments of those dramatic events.

JERUSALEM PRAYER BREAKFAST
BY DAVID PARSONS

The ICEJ featured prominently at the first annual Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast, held in June under the auspices of Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus. At the invitation of MK Robert Ilatov and Albert Veksler, more than 500 Christian leaders from 58 nations attended this inaugural event, including some 60 ICEJ senior leaders and national directors from around the globe. Convened to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem and to encourage Christian prayer for Israel worldwide, the three-day gathering included a visit to the Knesset, a reception at the President’s Residence (pictured), a worship concert, a founders’ gala dinner, and the launch of the first annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast for Israel at the grand Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Jerusalem. ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler was a keynote speaker at several of these events, and the ICEJ received frequent recognition from other speakers for its role in pioneering the global movement of Christian support for Israel in our day.
The ICEJ also hosted a panel discussion on “Christian Support as a Growing Strategic Asset for Israel,” moderated by our Senior Spokesman David Parsons. This panel featured pro-Israel Christian leaders from all five continents discussing the present status of this global constituency and its potential for Israel in coming years. The panelists included Dr. Jerry A. Johnson, President of the National Religious Broadcasters (North America); Dr. Luis Fernandez Solares, ICEJ-Guatemala National Director (Latin America); Gottfried Bühler, ICEJ-Germany National Director (Europe); Dr. Abdou Maiga, ICEJ Special Coordinator for West Africa (Africa); and Joseph Chou, ICEJ-Taiwan National Director (Asia). Akiva Tor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also joined the panel to bring an official Israeli perspective to the discussion.

In early June, the ICEJ hosted over 100 national directors and other key representatives and staff from 45 countries around the world at our largest-ever International Leadership Conference in Jerusalem. With 25 new branches added in just the last five years, it was especially exciting to welcome around 20 of these international leaders to our Jerusalem headquarters for the first time.

In June, the ICEJ once again participated in the annual Herzliya Policy Conference, the most prestigious gathering of government, diplomatic, security, academic and economic leaders in Israel each year. ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler addressed the opening session by highlighting the critical role the ICEJ and its worldwide branches have played in recent years in supporting Israel diplomatically, as well as the strategic importance of the growing Evangelical Christian movement worldwide in providing support for the Jewish State.

The ICEJ also hosted a panel discussion on “Christian Support as a Growing Strategic Asset for Israel,” moderated by our Senior Spokesman David Parsons. This panel featured pro-Israel Christian leaders from all five continents discussing the present status of this global constituency and its potential for Israel in coming years. The panelists included Dr. Jerry A. Johnson, President of the National Religious Broadcasters (North America); Dr. Luis Fernandez Solares, ICEJ-Guatemala National Director (Latin America); Gottfried Bühler, ICEJ-Germany National Director (Europe); Dr. Abdou Maiga, ICEJ Special Coordinator for West Africa (Africa); and Joseph Chou, ICEJ-Taiwan National Director (Asia). Akiva Tor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also joined the panel to bring an official Israeli perspective to the discussion.
We are pleased to welcome Rev. Mojmir Kallus to the ICEJ leadership team in Jerusalem, where he will serve as the new Vice President for International Affairs.

Mojmir has been the national director of ICEJ-Czech Republic since he founded the branch in 1994, and in recent years, has served as a member of the ICEJ’s international Board of Trustees. Mojmir has a background of great dedication to faith in Christ even during times of Communist oppression, and brings many valuable skills to his new position.

Mojmir was born in 1962 into a nominal Christian family in Czechoslovakia when it was still under Soviet domination. In 1983, while studying mathematics at Charles University in Prague he accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior in an evangelical church. He completed his math degree in 1985 but was soon called into ministry. He first served as a lay minister in the Czech Brethren church and later became a full-time assistant pastor. In the years after the fall of the Iron Curtain, the fellowship grew to be the largest congregation in the country, with about 1,000 members.

In the post-Communist period, many well-known evangelists were visiting the country and Mojmir often served as interpreter at their rallies. Thus, he had the privilege to assist such respected ministers of the Gospel as Billy Graham and Reinhard Bonnke. In 1998, he planted a new church associated with the Vineyard movement, while also holding a secular job as a freelance translator and interpreter. Soon, Mojmir started working as an official translator for the Czech government, accompanying the Prime Minister and other cabinet ministers on their travels around the world.

Mojmir became aware of the Christian Embassy in 1990, and made his first trip to Israel in 1992 to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. Two years later, he was appointed to head the new Czech Branch, our first in a former Communist country.

Over the years since, Mojmir has become one of the ICEJ’s most resourceful and effective national directors. In one innovative project, he managed to secure Czech and EU government funding for the Czech branch to teach Holocaust education in public schools. He has championed the fight against anti-Semitism and pushed for bans on neo-Nazi groups in Eastern Europe.

Mojmir has leveraged his professional contacts as an official government translator into successful lobbying efforts for Israel in the Czech parliament and cabinet, including the parliament’s recent decision to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. He also has taken the lead in launching several new ICEJ branches in Eastern Europe, giving him valuable experience as he moves into opening new branches in other regions of the globe. Meanwhile, Mojmir has continued his pastoral role for many Czech Christians who greatly respect his grasp of biblical Hebrew. For many years, he has led a Friday night Bible study of the weekly Torah portion.

Mojmir will move to Jerusalem this summer to take up his new position, and will be accompanied by his wife, Lucie, and their 12 year-old daughter, Matylda.
JÜRGEN BÜHLER OPENING NIGHT FEAST 2016 DVD (TEACHING ONLY)

As you watch the opening night of the Feast in 2016 may you be uplifted and inspired to join us in Jerusalem for future celebrations of the Feast of Tabernacles.

USD 10.99

NEW!

EIN GEDI CELEBRATION FEAST 2016 FULL NIGHT DVD

As you watch, may you be uplifted and inspired to join us in Jerusalem for future celebrations of the Feast of Tabernacles.

USD 15.99

NEW!

Celebrate 50 Years of a United Jerusalem!

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

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 (FREE SHIPPING)

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

Go to: ICEJSTORE.COM and use the discount code: WFI2017ICEJ – The special 10% discount for your purchases at the Embassy Resources is valid until 31/12/17
THE TOUCH THAT HEALS
ICEJ Reaches out to Tel Aviv’s Darkest Neighborhoods
By Kayla Ellingsworth

A woman was sleeping on a couch in a busy room full of people, with cigarette burns on the skin around her ankles, wearing clothes that desperately needed washing. Although not a common sight in Israel, even in this land of Promise there are people like her in desperate need of help. Through the ICEJ, you can reach out even to the least of them.

One of the darkest neighborhoods in Tel Aviv is home to many lost souls overcome by despair; drug addicts, prostitutes, victims of human trafficking. And yet in the midst of this nightmare stands a beacon of hope: With ICEJ’s help, a couple of Israelis have created a safe place for these local women to get off the streets for several hours during the day and be encouraged to take steps towards rehabilitation.

Many of the suffering people in this land long for any sign of compassion. The ICEJ is your hands and feet in this land to serve those in need. You can make a difference! Send your support to the ICEJ by following this link: www.icej.org/aid
ICEJ-assisted Aliyah for the Bnei Menashe – the secluded Jewish Community in northwestern India – passed the 1,000 mark, right in time for a young Bnei Menashe IDF soldier to be honored by the Israeli President for his service. Staff Sergeant Eliezer Menashe was recently invited to President Rivlin’s Jerusalem residence, where he was awarded the President’s Medal for Excellence, along with other outstanding soldiers from the IDF.

Twenty-two-year-old Eliezer made Aliyah in 2010 at age 16. He presently serves in a combat unit of the Golani Infantry Brigade. Doing so, he follows in the footsteps of older siblings, who have also served in the IDF, his older sister being the first female from the Bnei Menashe community to do military service. Eliezer thus continues to meet the high standards set by his family and the broader Bnei Menashe community.

The ICEJ is proud and pleased to have a stake in the return to Israel of this dedicated and patriotic Israeelite population group. Thanks to the support of many Christians from around the world, the ICEJ was able to pay for the airfare to Israel of these Jews from the remote Indian region.

In the run-up to the Russian revolution, Belarusian Jews were particularly hard hit by pogroms, leading many to flee to the West and home to Israel. Further hardship occurred, during the Holocaust, when Belarusian was one of the main locations of the Nazis’ Final Solution. More recently, following Ukraine’s civil war, oil prices dropped sharply, halving the real value of the Belarusian ruble and throwing the economy into crisis. The protests and resulting government crackdowns, along with growing tensions with Russia, contributed to a climate of fear.

Aliyah to Israel from Belarus has spiked in the past year and continues to increase. According to the Jewish Agency, moving to Israel has become an attractive option especially for young people, but because of low incomes Jewish families have to rely on savings and loans to make ends meet. For many of them, returning to Israel has only been made possible by Christian support.

Facing many hardships in their country of residence, Belarusian Jews are ready to come home. The ICEJ stands ready to help them every step of the way - in Belarus as well as in Israel.

The ICEJ has been active in Belarus since 2006, providing secure transportation to the airport for over 4,000 people, as well as hospitality as needed along the way. The first historical record of a Jewish community in Belarus dates back to Brest-Litovsk in 1388. In 1791, Catherine the Great forced the Jews of Belarus to live in the Pale of Settlement. But Belarusian Jewry survived and multiplied, growing to 750,000 by the end of the 19th century.
Shouts of joy echoed through Ben Gurion Airport’s arrival hall on June 6, as 70 Ethiopian Jews were hugged, kissed, and joyfully welcomed home to Israel.

Tears flowed down the faces of many family members as they embraced for the first time after years of separation. Proverbs 13:12 says, “Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.” The longings of these families were finally fulfilled that night! Two Ethiopian women stood with large bouquets of flowers in their hands. “We have been waiting for our brother to come to Israel for 19 years, and we finally get to see him today!” said one of them.

Another man in the crowd, Ayana, made Aliyah with his family 10 years ago, but his brother was about to get married at the time, which hindered his return to Israel. Stirred to help his people in making Aliyah, Ayana started an organization which prepares the ground in Israel for his people. The initiative employs 150 people, who oversee a number of projects, including lobbying in the Knesset to help bring Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Ayana’s motivation is simple: “I want to bring my family home.” Finally, after 10 years of waiting, Ayana was finally reunited with his brother and welcomed him home!

Last year, the Israeli government decided to resume Aliyah operations to bring the remaining 9,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel. There have been many delays and challenges, yet the first of these flights was a success! The ICEJ has committed to sponsor hundreds of Ethiopian Jews to make Aliyah and find a home in Israel. Rebecca, a representative from the Jewish Agency expressed, “The ICEJ has not only helped us bring these Jews to Israel, but also helped reunite them with their families after many years. It is so important for the Jewish Agency to have partners like the ICEJ to strengthen the land and the people of Israel.”
In May, a team from the ICEJ traveled to Ethiopia to meet with those in the Jewish communities of Addis Ababa and Gondar who were preparing to make Aliyah. After the first waves of Ethiopian Aliyah two decades ago, many left their homes to prepare for the trip to Israel, only to discover that the government of Ethiopia had put a halt to their journey. They were forced to live in small temporary homes while waiting for the doors to open again. After meeting the Ethiopian families in Gondar, Barry Denison, the ICEJ VP Operations, said: “They’ve been waiting 14, 16, or 19 years to go to Israel. They were just asking us for help!”

Their feet have finally touched their promised land. All those years of waiting are over, and they are home. The next step is to integrate into Israeli society. Specially-designed absorption centers introduce the Ethiopian people to the modern, advanced Israeli society.

As Ethiopian Jews make Aliyah today, along with many other Jews dispersed around the world, we get to witness God fulfilling His promise made many centuries ago: “In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to bring back the remnant of his people – those who remain in Assyria and northern Egypt; in southern Egypt, ETHIOPIA, and Elam; in Babylonian, Hamath, and all the distant coastlands. He will raise a flag among the nations and assemble the exiles of Israel. He will gather the scattered people of Judah from the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 11:11-12)

Thank you for participating in this modern-day miracle! We expect about 300 Ethiopian Jews to make Aliyah during the month of June. When you give to the work and ministry of the ICEJ, you are ensuring that we welcome these Jews in Israel with Christian love!

(Above) Local Jewish Synagogue in Ethiopia.

(Right) Amanda Gross, ICEJ TV Producer, with two Jewish girls in Gondar, Ethiopia.

A team from the ICEJ traveled to Ethiopia to meet with those who were preparing to make Aliyah

Send your gift here: www.icej.org/ethiopia
The first Sunday of June was an historic occasion for the tiny island nation of Fiji, as it hosted the inaugural ICEJ Oceania Conference. The conference culminated in a march on May 27, including ICEJ representatives from the Oceania region as well as Jerusalem, who took to the streets of Suva (Fiji’s capital) in solidarity with the Jewish State, showing their outpouring of love for Israel.

Our friends from Jerusalem relayed how momentous travelling from Jerusalem to Fiji was for them – from the land of Israel to these Pacific Islands, the furthest landmark on earth. What does God say about the ‘ends of the earth’? In Job 28:24 we read: “His eyes are over the ends of the earth.” Surely, it was God who ordained our ancestors to voyage the Pacific Ocean. While they were great voyagers and used the stars to guide their way, I agree with Dr. Bühler that it must have been the Spirit of the Lord who directed them to this land, knowing how prophetic it would be in fulfilling His Word.

In the Oceania states, ICEJ is represented in Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. The ICEJ Oceania conference saw the launching of the work of ICEJ in Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tonga and Samoa, with the hope that these men and women of the kingdom will take hold of the ICEJ vision and set sail in their respective island nations.

Wherever you may be, in the Pacific or in the world, if you are like me and stand with Israel and God’s purposes for Israel, then connect with your nearest ICEJ branch. Perhaps you are thinking of being in Jerusalem this October for the Feast of Tabernacles – please go! I have no doubt that the Glory of God will be manifested in all its power and splendor over the Holy Land and over every heart that stands with Israel. ☺
At the end of April, 36 German teenagers from four different schools took part in a four-day educational trip organized by the ICEJ to Prague and Theresienstadt in the Czech Republic. The trip was organized by ICEJ branches in Germany and the Czech Republic.

Touring through the concentration camp of Theresienstadt, the students met with Judith Rosenzweig of the ICEJ-sponsored Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors, accompanied by ICEJ staff member Yudit Setz, and Evelina Merova from the Czech Republic. Judith and Evelina both survived the horrors of Theresienstadt and Auschwitz during WWII, and their personal stories deeply impacted the youngsters.

In Prague, the students participated in a “March of Goodwill” against anti-Semitism, alongside hundreds of Christians and Jews. The march ended with a rally in the Wallenstein Garden, where they were joined by the minister of culture, Daniel Herman, and deputy speaker of the Senate, Jaroslav Kubera, as well as the Israeli Ambassador Daniel Meron.

For the first time in Czech history, leaders from the Christian and Jewish communities celebrated Jerusalem Day together in the famous St. Vitus Cathedral at the Prague Castle, the 600-year-old symbol of Czech statehood. The event was organized by ICEJ-Czech Republic in cooperation with other Christian and Jewish organizations.

Several hundred people, including members of parliament and ambassadors, participated in the celebration of our common spiritual heritage. Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat greeted the assembly in a video message, highlighting the good relations between both countries. Israeli Ambassador Daniel Meron mentioned many connections between Prague and Jerusalem, and noted that 50 years ago the reunification of Jerusalem opened the holy city to all. Czech President Milos Zeman also sent his greetings to the event.

Deputy speaker of the Czech Parliament Jan Bartosek announced the successful passage on that very day of a resolution which calls on the Czech Government to promote “respect for Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.” The motion represents an official recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel by the Czech Republic. It also strongly criticized the recent resolution of UNESCO, “which explicitly denies Israeli sovereignty over her own capital city of Jerusalem.”

Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly thanked the Czech Republic at an event at Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem, adding: “The Czechs once gave us Czech rifles, this was the start of the struggle. Now the parliament in Prague called on its government to respect the status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel … This is the correct, worthy and courageous decision that others should copy.”

Rabbi Shmuel Bowman and Gottfried Bühler

Rabbi Shmuel Bowman is ready to speak from the pulpit of German churches 70 years after the Holocaust, is unprecedented and a great honor for us,” said Gottfried Bühler, ICEJ-Germany National Director. Rabbi Bowman spoke about his work of setting up life-saving bomb shelters in endangered Jewish and Arab communities throughout Israel. “When we set up Jewish-designed and Christian-sponsored bomb shelters in Arab-Muslim communities, then we can rightly say that the Messiah is on the way,” Bowman said.
TAIWAN (pictured above) - The ICEJ Directors in Taiwan, Joseph and Deborah Chou, have been wonderful tools in God’s hands to educate and enlighten the Taiwanese churches about His purposes concerning Israel and the Middle East. Together with several local churches and their leaders, the seminars and gatherings took place in the cities of Taipei, Taitung, and Taoyuan.

The first conference I joined, “Jerusalem Flame Seminar – Isaac, Ishmael and the Nations,” took place in Taipei. Along with Pastor Daniel Yahav from Tiberias, Israel, and Rev. Afeef Halasah from Amman, Jordan, we joined ICEJ-Taiwan and six local churches in worshipping the Lord and ministered to them from the Scriptures. The next ICEJ-Taiwan Conference, hosted by the City Spring of Life Full Gospel Church, was held in Taitung, the poorest city in Taiwan.

Our last stop was Taoyuan, where we served yet at another conference organized by local churches and hosted by Bread of Life Christian Church. The Taiwanese pastors and leaders treat prayer with great honor and respect, thus the time of intercession truly nourished our hearts and spirit, and it powerfully reinforced the spoken Word.

COLOMBIA (pictured left) - More than 1500 pastors and leaders from across Colombia attended a conference in Cucuta, Colombia, hosted by Jose Satirio, Senior Pastor of Centro Cristiano Church. Delegates came from Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Chile, Brazil, Venezuela, Peru, Mexico, India, and the USA. It was a real honor to speak at the Conference about God’s plans for Israel and why as Christians we need to be involved in those plans. In the past 42 years, through the ministry of Pastor Satirio, 105,000 people in Colombia were baptised, over 40 local churches were planted in Cucuta, with 300 additional churches throughout Colombia.

In Bogota, the capital city of Colombia, we served at Centro de Alabanza Oasis Church led by Apostle Gustavo Paez. While pastoring his local church, Apostle Paez also reaches thousands through his TV and radio ministry, and oversees more than 100 churches in Colombia and abroad. It was a great honor and a delight to share God’s message with the young disciples in the School of Prophets in Colombia.
The ICEJ is a global ministry, called by God to reach out from Jerusalem to all the nations. Through the years, the Holy Spirit has led us to all continents. This Spring together with my wife Kati I traveled to the Philippines, to strengthen our work there and meet with many spiritual leaders in the country.

Both the previous ICEJ-Philippines National Director Bishop Dan Balais and the current National Director Bishop Joshua Blas with ICEJ Representative Sally Maddatu work together to reach the people of their nation with the Gospel and God’s message concerning Israel. They do so on numerous islands that belong to their country.

In the city of Cebu, several local pastors along with many young people came to our event eager to learn about God’s salvation plan regarding the Jewish people. The meetings were coordinated by Linda Francisco, first female ICEJ leader in the Philippines. I then ministered at Christ the Life Changer Church, where we were welcomed by the pastor Nicario Castorico, a former baker now leading a church of 1,200. At Citichurch, led by Pastor Lito Diamante and Senior Pastor Jo Alfaara, I had the pleasure of meeting with ministry heads of churches in Cebu City and neighboring municipalities.

In Manila, we ministered at the main church of Apostle Joshua Blas, the Joshua Generation Worldwide Ministries. After suffering a serious stroke and still using a wheelchair, Apostle Blas remains a leader over many churches, and he found strength to welcome us at his church in person and even led the ICEJ board meeting. In Cuneta Astrodome I had the privilege to preach about Israel to around 5,000 people at a national gathering of intercessors. Bishop Balais has been organizing these gatherings for 30 years and has made a point to teach the people to bless, pray, and intercede for Israel. It was also a great delight to visit Friends of Jesus Christ Church in Manila. Over the years, this church and Pastor Lucy Peralta have stood with our ministry and demonstrated their love for Israel in many ways. We also ministered to young adults from Word of Hope and at the Jesus Loves You Church, led by Bishop Rey Pe Benito, which has been sending volunteers to the Feast of Tabernacles in Israel for years.

In the city of Cagayan de Oro, we joined the gathering of regional pastors and leaders representing 180 churches of the Assembly of God Church, at the invitation of Rev. Elpie Taboclaon, the District Superintendent and Board of Trustee of the Philippine General Council of the Assemblies of God. I taught a seminar for pastors, church workers and businessmen from Bukidnon, some parts of Lanao del Norte and Cagayan de Oro City. I was also able to minister in Mindanao, after almost two decades of no official ICEJ delegation from Jerusalem in this Muslim dominated region.

One unforgettable experience for my wife Kati and me happened in Masbate, where we took part in the dedication of a mountain to the Lord as a place of prayer for Jerusalem and Israel. One of the ICEJ-Philippines Board members, Sister Mercy Cabiles, had a vision 12 years ago to prepare a place, the seven mountains set apart for prayer. The Lord told her that “when you build it with no money, it will belong to Me.” Her dream has become reality through prayer and faith. We had the honor to dedicate the first mountain, “Moriah Prayer Mountain,” and six more will follow later this year, to cover all the continents of the world in prayer.
ICEJ WORLDWIDE

ICEJ-SWITZERLAND HOSTS JERUSALEM DAY EVENT

In May, the ICEJ Swiss branch held a Jerusalem Day celebration at the historic Palace Hotel in Luzern, Switzerland, with over 300 Christians gathering to rejoice in the reunification of Jerusalem in the 1967 Six-Day War. ICEJ-Switzerland national director Hansjorg Bischof welcomed David Parsons from the Jerusalem staff as the keynote speaker, while Israeli ambassador to Switzerland Jacob Keidar and Swiss MP Hans-Ulrich Bigler also brought greetings. Special music was performed by Israeli-Swiss singer Einat Betzalel.

ICEJ-USA DELIVERS STRATEGY PAPER TO TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

The USA Branch of the ICEJ has delivered a strategy paper to President Donald Trump and US Ambassador to Israel, David Friedman, calling for the move of the American Embassy to Jerusalem this year, as Israel celebrates the 50th anniversary of the city’s reunification.

The ICEJ strategy paper identifies the main reasons the international community has historically used to justify their refusal to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital. The first reason is the idea of internationalizing Jerusalem, as suggested in the 1947 UN Partition Plan, which was only intended as a temporary measure and has long since become outdated. The second reason is the need to be even-handed. This too is a poor excuse as many nations – including the United States – have placed their top envoys to the Palestinians in Jerusalem, while their counterparts to Israel sit in Tel Aviv.

The paper states that by moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem, the Trump administration will right an historic wrong, send a message to the world that America stands by its allies, and signal to the Palestinians that the time for compromise has come.

“This year of Jubilee for Jerusalem is the right time for the United States to correct this historic injustice by leading the nations back up to Jerusalem,” stated ICEJ-USA Director Susan Michael.

ICEJ-NORWAY CONFRONTS FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF TERRORISM

Widely known, yet rarely publicized, is the fact that significant amounts from donations to the Palestinian Authority are siphoned off and used to support terrorists and their families. Furthermore, their terror attacks are celebrated in the Palestinian territories, a fact often brushed over by Western media.

However, a scandal broke out recently when it was revealed that a new women’s center in the West Bank, sponsored in part by the Norwegian government, was named after a female terrorist responsible for the killing of 37 civilians, including children, near Tel Aviv in 1978. The ICEJ office in Norway was first to react and disclose this information to the public, and also approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and several members of parliament for comment.

Later in the afternoon, the MFA released a historic statement, calling glorification of terrorist attacks “completely unacceptable,” condemned the notion of naming a cultural center after a terrorist, and demanded a return of Norwegian funds contributed to the center. The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs confirms that the Palestinian Authority uses $300 million annually to reward imprisoned and released terrorists, along with the families of deceased terrorists (jcpa.org).
Prayer Opens Up New Frontiers
Join us in prayer for urgent needs in and around Israel, and concerning the Jewish people worldwide.

BY DAN HERRON, MOJMR KALLUS

The ICEJ is breaking new ground in both practical and spiritual terms in one of Europe’s poorest countries. “God Loves You” is the affirming name of a small but vibrant evangelical church in Cërrik, central Albania. Because God also loves Israel, local pastoral couple Kristian and Nina Kotorri invited the newly opened ICEJ branch in Albania’s capital city, Tirana, to organize an Isaiah 62 prayer event.

In doing so, Albania is uniting with believers in 85 countries across the globe to lift up the Jewish people in prayer. Moreover, having taken the verse: “For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet…” of Isaiah 62 to heart, the Kotorris concurrently began circulating a petition for Albania’s government to recognize Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel and move the Republic of Albania’s embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

THE NEW BRANCH
The opening of a new ICEJ branch in Albania is quite remarkable. The country is considered to be predominantly Muslim and, until the fall of Communism 25 years ago, communist leaders boasted of having erased all religion from Albania and creating the first atheistic state. Yet persistent and unified efforts by western missionaries are bearing fruit. This means sound Biblical teaching on Israel has led young believers to embrace God’s plan for the Jewish people, creating a solid basis for the ICEJ’s work.

The potential for strong ties with Israel is also related to another, less-known chapter of Albania’s history. During World War II, the government refused to round up its Jews, as the Nazi occupiers demanded. Instead, local Albanians risked their lives and hid many Jews in their own homes.

The number of Jews living or hiding in Albania increased ten-fold during the terrible years of the Holocaust. The story is well known at Yad Vashem, where 69 Albanians, many of them Muslims, were awarded the Righteous Among the Nations recognition. The ICEJ hopes to build on this historical heritage and facilitate strong, positive ties between the two countries, bringing blessing to both.

JOIN ALBANIA AND MANY OTHER COUNTRIES IN PRAYING FOR ISRAEL
This month we encourage you to pray with us that Israel would not be hindered or deterred from building up Jerusalem within the plans and purposes of God for this day. Pray the nations would overcome their fears of recognizing Jewish rights and Israeli sovereignty over the city. Pray for the Holy Spirit to override the plans and schemes of man when it comes to this city. Pray for Jerusalem to remain undivided and in Israeli hands. Pray for God to accomplish all He intends for the city of Jerusalem and the people of Israel in this special year of Jubilee.

Join the Isaiah 62 initiative of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem as we corporately pray for Jerusalem, the nation of Israel, and the Middle East:

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.
Join the ICEJ and Christians from around the world at the Feast of Tabernacles in October. Be in Jerusalem and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

$425
A special rate of $425.00 for full registration is available until April 30, 2017.

$1345
The ICEJ also offers a land package program to provide hotel accommodations for 7 nights, transportation to Feast events including the Jerusalem March. Land package rates begin at $1345.00 and include the registration fee.

6-11 October 2017
feast.icej.org
We look forward to seeing you in Jerusalem
The City of God – in 2017!