TIME TO RESCUE THE
ETHIOPIAN REMNANT
HELP BRING HUNDREDS OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS HOME TO ISRAEL
Dear friends,

I hope and pray that the new year has started out well for you. As I write this, here in Israel we are bracing for a possible third wave of the Coronavirus. Only the coming year will fully reveal the huge economic impact the pandemic has had on Israel. Yet one thing is already certain: Our AID team is receiving more requests for help from Israelis than ever before.

As we did throughout 2020, we pray that God will allow us to continue showing love and support to the increasing number of Israelis who are hard hit by successive waves of corona lockdowns.

We also are determined to remain at the forefront of the historic return of Jews from Ethiopia. After Israel decided to resume the Ethiopian Aliyah in 2015, the ICEJ has sponsored flights for the 2,300 Ethiopian Jews who have come to Israel since then. But for those still in Ethiopia, they suddenly are desperate to escape from an armed uprising launched by a regional militia. Recently, an Ethiopian Jewish man who had waited for decades to reunite with his grandmother in Israel was killed in the fighting. The situation is urgent, and action is needed! We are thankful to be in a position where we can directly help with the return of this last remnant of Ethiopian Jews, many of whom have been stuck in transit camps for more than 20 years waiting to reach Israel.

The Corona crisis has brought many challenges but also many opportunities. In a recent meeting with some 50 international Christian leaders, I heard many share about how COVID-19 had impacted their ministries. The recurrent themes were more prayer, more open doors to minister, a new wave of young people engaged in ministry, and an increased sense of unity among believers and churches. When I listened to their testimonies, I thanked God because we have experienced much the same – both in Jerusalem and in many of our national branches worldwide.

We have never prayed so much as in 2020. We increased our AID work in many areas. New doors have opened to our ministry. We just restructured some of our departments and young, dedicated leaders are stepping up to take on new responsibilities. Our branch leaders keep telling me that in 2020 we grew closer together as a global family. For these and other reasons, we are full of gratitude for how God has been with us.

And this is what I hope and pray for you in this new year, that amid all the new challenges you will experience Immanuel (“God with us” – Isaiah 7:14) in a real way. Remember, God is with you wherever you go!

Yours in Christ,

Dr Jürgen Bühler
President
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

PRESIDENT'S DESK

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was established in 1980 in recognition of the biblical significance of Jerusalem and its unique connection to the Jewish people. Today the ICEJ represents millions of Christians, churches and denominations to the nation and people of Israel. We recognise in the restoration of Israel the faithfulness of God to keep His ancient covenant with the Jewish people. Our main objectives are:

* To stand with Israel in support and friendship;
* To equip and teach the worldwide Church regarding God’s purposes with Israel and the nations of the Middle East;
* To be an active voice of reconciliation between Jews, Christians and Arabs and to support the churches and congregations in the Holy Land.

From its head offices in Jerusalem, the ICEJ reaches out to more than 170 countries, with branch offices in over 90 nations.

Our vision is:

* To reach every segment of Israeli society with a Christian testimony of comfort and love, and
* To reach and actively represent to Israel the support of denominations, churches and believers from every nation on earth.

The Christian Embassy is a non-denominational faith-based ministry supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends across the globe. We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by donating to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.

Support our ministry online at www.icej.org
CONTENTS

4 EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

8 NEW BIBLICAL TREASURES AWAIT THE RETURN OF TOURISTS TO ISRAEL

10 TIME TO RESCUE THE ETHIOPIAN REMNANT

14 EXPANSION TIME AT THE HAIFA HOME

16 ANTISEMITISM CONFERENCE IN GERMANY COUNTERS RISING JEW-HATRED
THE SEVEN THUNDERS

Reading recently through the book of Revelation, I had to stop at chapter ten. John the Apostle sees a “mighty angel” coming down from heaven. Majestically, he places his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. In his hand he has an open scroll. He opened his mouth and as he spoke the “seven thunders” sounded. What a magnificent experience! Seven seals, seven trumpets, seven bowls and seven thunders. But John was just about to write what he heard from these seven thunders when he was instructed: “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.” (Revelation 10:4) I was always puzzled when I read this passage. I wanted to know what did the thunders say and why was John not allowed to write it down? And why is it even recorded in the Bible when it all is a secret?

Expect the Unexpected!

BY DR JÜRGEN BÜHLER • ICEJ PRESIDENT

During the course of the Corona crisis, I have sensed that this passage is there for a purpose. Through it, God wants to inform us that certain matters are deliberately hidden from mankind and even from the Church. God deliberately placed this story that so much awakens our curiosity for exactly that purpose in the Bible. He wants us to know that we do not know everything. He wants us to know that in spite of all the revelation and knowledge He might give us, there will always be the unknown and many surprises.

A YEAR OF SURPRISES

Indeed, 2020 has been full of surprises, and not only in Israel. I well remember how the year started. Our theme for last year’s Feast was “Prepare the Way”. It was a theme which called for repentance but it also connected us to Isaiah 40:1, the biblical mandate the Lord gave the ICEJ exactly 40 years ago, commanding us to “comfort, yes, comfort My people, says your God!”

We started the year in prayer and fasting. An article from the American revivalist Charles Finney on repentance gave us all inspiration. It was an unusual yet very significant year for us, especially as 2020 was our 40th anniversary as a ministry. Some of our key branch leaders gathered in Jerusalem in February to envision
And indeed, 2020 became a year of great shaking. The whole world was challenged with a global pandemic. It turned out to be a year which placed unprecedented restraints on all of us. We could not travel to visit our branches, the financial ramifications of lockdowns threatened to impact our income, and the Feast of Tabernacles was in danger of being cancelled for the first time in the forty years of ICEJ. Israel was in a total shutdown and even until today does not allow tourists to visit the country. In March last year, the ICEJ Board held an emergency meeting to discuss the possible harm caused by the global lockdowns and other health restrictions.

But God used this shaking to bless us in unexpected ways. Many of the targets that we set for ourselves during the February strategy meetings for the coming years were accomplished faster than we ever could have anticipated. Challenged by Corona, we have prayed more than ever. We wanted to meet and collaborate more with our branches, and that has happened once we began using Zoom. Our Aid team in Israel managed to reach far more people during the virus than the year before. We assisted more Jewish immigrants with their Aliyah flights to Israel than since the massive wave of Soviet Jews in the 1990s. And the Feast of Tabernacles reached more people in 2020 than ever before.

We had to acknowledge that “our plans are many, but the purpose of the Lord will stand” (Proverbs 19:21). Man plans but God guides. Many times, the plans and expectations we have, even as believers, will not come to completion, and often we are confronted with new and unexpected situations. So I asked myself why there was no clear prophetic warning about an event of such global proportions?

THE LORD COMES!

Then I felt God speak to me that it is exactly in these unexpected and surprising situations when our faith is tested the most. It was in unforeseen challenges like the sudden advance of an opposing army (2 Chronicles 20:1ff), or unexpected sickness (2 Kings 20:1ff); and even unexpected death (John 11:14) when God’s power manifests itself.

It was exactly five years ago when – after a season of prayer and seeking the Lord – I was diagnosed with cancer in an advanced stage. The doctors declared me to be an “inoperable case”, such that no doctor in Israel would operate on me. My life came to a halt, and my family was shaken to our very foundations. But it was exactly in this sudden, humanly impossible situation that God not only came through and powerfully preserved my life, but we also came to know Him in a deeper way than ever before.

We should never forget that often God comes to meet His people while clothed in darkness (Psalm 18:9; Isaiah 60:1ff) and amid great challenges. This current season of darkness and testings can become the time of your greatest miracle.

We need to remind ourselves that God’s ways will never be revealed to us in their entirety. The Apostle Paul declares that our knowledge is partial (1 Corinthians 13:9), and Moses declared to the people that there will always be a mysterious side to God which will leave us puzzled at times (Deuteronomy 29:29). A main thought from Jesus which runs through his Olivet Discourse on the last days is exactly that. Six times Jesus assures us: “You do not know on what day your Lord is coming.” (see Matthew 24:36, 39, 42, 44, 50; 25:13)

However, I well remember at the closing session of our strategy meetings last February how Dag Øyvind Juliussen, leader of our Norwegian branch, got up and said he wanted to share a word which had been resonating again and again in his heart over recent months. It was from the prophet Haggai:

“For thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth, and the sea and the dry land. And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the Lord of hosts.’” (Haggai 2:6-7)

‘YOU DO NOT KNOW ON WHAT DAY YOUR LORD IS COMING.’

- Matthew 24:36, 39, 42, 44, 50; 25:13 -

BIRTH PANGS OF MESSIAH

It is true that in the end times many developments will and can be expected because the Bible’s prophetic passages announce them. The physical rebuilding of Israel and her spiritual restoration, the return of the Jews back to their homeland, the rise of the Antichrist, a global revival – all these things are clearly foretold in the Word of God. Yet at the same time, we need to expect the unexpected. John was not allowed to write what the voice of the seven thunders said, and they may not be revealed to us before their time.
A word that resonated in my heart again and again in recent months is “Brace!” Brace yourself, not for a fatal impact, but for rough times ahead. I personally believe coronavirus is just a warm-up; it is just the beginning of the testings ahead. This is what we have heard from many leaders around the world. In a recent Global Prayer Gathering, our brother Peter Tsukahira called our times the “birth pangs of Messiah”. Birth pangs are all the same. The closer you come to birth, the more frequent and more intense they become.

Recent developments should make us all alert. As I write this article, the US election looks as if it will likely leave us with a new president in the White House who already has announced plans to reverse many of the favourable policies of the Trump administration, including towards Israel. So Israel is bracing for much cooler relations with a new US administration. At the same time, we are seeing a new level of escalation with Iran being reached, with Israel ready for “all options”.

Meantime, the coronavirus might lead to unprecedented regulations on a global scale, including a potential mandatory vaccination program. While we all appreciate the need for vaccines, which might have saved us from deadly diseases before, now for the first time we are offered vaccines that directly impact our human genetic code and which might be forced upon the world population in a very rapid amount of time. With this a dangerous line has been crossed, not only for many Christians.

In addition, evangelical believers are being increasingly singled out as a threat to Western societies. Not only in America, but in a growing number of Western countries, Bible believing Christians who pray for their own nation, care for the well-being of their state, and uphold biblical moral and ethical standards are branded today as “Evangelical Nationalists” who threaten the new world order. A German official recently singled out “Pentecostal churches” as one of the few virus super-spreaders who need to be watched.

The year 2021 is a year when the Church needs to be on the alert. But not just on alert regarding the latest news but even more we need spiritual alertness. It is a time when prayer, our commitment to the word of God, and fellowship with other believers is more important than ever. A sad development around the world is that the move to online services has dramatically lowered attendance at church meetings – even online.

The parable of the ten virgins in Mathew 25 reminds us of the sudden appearance of the bridegroom. His arrival surprised all ten virgins. All were sleepy, but only five had enough oil in their lamps. When a discussion quickly arose about sharing each other’s oil, the five “foolish virgins” were told to “buy for themselves”. It is a time when you cannot rely on the faith of your pastor, parents or spouse. Each one of us needs to be ready and braced for more shakings. It is a time when our walk with Christ needs to be intentional, bold and wholehearted. Even as the world gets darker around us, we are called to arise and shine – because the Lord’s light has arisen upon us! He is the unshakable rock that preserves us even in a stormy 2021.

The worship song “The Blessing” has indeed blessed millions during the corona crisis. It is a prayer that I offer for all of us as we enter an uncertain 2021. Despite all that may come, we know one thing will never change – and that is Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, including in 2021! 🙏
As a general rule, Biden is bent on undoing many of Trump’s executive decisions – both at home and abroad. This might not mean returning the US Embassy to Tel Aviv. But it would include warming US relations with the PLO and restoring US funding to the PA and UNRWA – although Biden would need to adhere to the new Taylor Force Act which now blocks US funding if the Palestinians are still paying welfare benefits to terrorists.

He also would vigorously push the two-state solution again, as well as pressure Israel on settlement activity. And he would likely revert to the “linkage” theory – the State Department’s traditional position that all conflicts in the region stem from the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, which needs to be solved before other regional problems can be addressed.

Buoyed by the thought Trump was on his way out, the PA leadership in Ramallah quickly signalled Biden they were ready to start restoring security cooperation with Israel, and even to enter renewed negotiations with Jerusalem, after boycotting any talks during Trump’s time in office.

European Union officials also felt emboldened to ratchet up their opposition to all settlement activity, denouncing in particular Israeli plans to build hundreds of new housing units in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Givat Hamatos.

However, many Arab leaders continued to take steps to normalise relations with Israel. Even Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman hosted a discreet meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to discuss future moves should Biden take office.

Meanwhile on Iran, many analysts believe Biden would either re-enter the old nuclear deal or seek a new one with minor changes and an extended deadline. The clerical regime in Tehran, however, made it clear they would exact a high price to even consider possible changes to the JCPOA negotiated under Obama.

Otherwise, Biden is largely seen as a ‘globalist’ – a view reflected in his picks so far for senior foreign policy positions. Many are former Obama appointees, which could prove worrisome to Israelis still smarting from the Obama years. But Biden’s defenders insist he would respect the close US-Israel relationship and help maintain Israel’s military edge in the region.

For America’s traditional Sunni Arab allies, however, there are serious concerns Biden would return to the Obama-era appeasement of Iran by lifting sanctions and overlooking its aggressive tactics in the region. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo paid a visit to the region to reassure Israel and the Arabs that Trump was still around, and a few days later Iran’s top nuclear scientist was assassinated – setting back its atomic program no matter who occupies the White House. 🇺🇸
Looking for a bright side to the Corona pandemic? The lack of tourism to Israel this year is giving many key archaeological sites here time to dig deeper, renovate and plan for the big crowds expected to return once the health threat begins to lift. In Jerusalem, this includes some amazing sites with new archaeological finds that will have one stepping right into the pages of the Bible.

In March, Israel shut its borders to foreign visitors in response to the coronavirus pandemic, and the number of tourists has flatlined. Still, the past year or so has seen a treasure trove of new biblical finds in Jerusalem and around the Land of Israel. For instance, in northern Israel a fortified city dating to the time of King David was just uncovered on the Golan Heights, and is believed to be the first evidence of what the Bible identifies as the ‘Geshurite’ people (ex., Joshua 12:5).

Meanwhile, in southern Israel a large citadel dating to the time of the Judges (3200 years old) was recently unearthed along the Guvrin stream near Kiryat Gat, which probably was constructed by the Egyptians as a defensive position in their wars against the Philistines.

But it is in and around Jerusalem where some of the most exciting biblical treasures have been found of late. For instance, in digs along the Western Wall archaeologists recently came upon an impressive underground living chamber dating to the early First Century but are unsure of its exact purpose so far. Also near the Temple Mount, an ancient coin was discovered from the Bar Kochba revolt-era (132-135 AD) with the inscription ‘Year two of freedom’.

Then there were two more large building complexes found in southern Jerusalem which – along with a similar site previously found at nearby Kibbutz Ramat Rachel – indicate that the Judean kings ruled over a vast area which needed such large centralized structures on the outskirts of the growing capital city to collect taxes and otherwise govern the surrounding regions.

One of these new sites was unearthed during construction work this year near the US Embassy in Arnona, some three kilometers south of the Old City. Archaeologists are describing it as a massive government complex from the time of kings Hezekiah and Menashe some 2700 years ago. There were 120 Hebrew-inscribed seal impressions on jars found in storage areas which held food collected as taxes for the Judean kings in First Temple times, with many jars marked as “Belonging to the King”.

Archaeologists surmise that during the final centuries of the Judean dynasty, they built the large administrative complexes at Arnona and Ramat Rachel to move their activities away from the walled City of David. These facilities remained active up until the Assyrian conquest and even were put back into use again when exiled Jews began returning to the Land of Israel from Babylon.

Only a few blocks away at the popular Sherover Promenade overlooking the Old City, archaeologists have just unveiled a lavish palace from the same late First Temple-era with three rare column capitals that match the Phoenician-style ones previously discovered in the City of David and which are thought to be symbolic of the Davidic dynasty.

Experts believe the ornate residence was built by a wealthy and perhaps noble Jewish family between the reigns of kings Hezekiah and Josiah, after the Assyrian siege on the city was lifted (2 Kings 19). Relieved by the retreat of the enemy, residents of Jerusalem appear to have ventured
outside the walled City of David and expanded the city southward, as is also indicated by the administrative complexes from the same time period in Arnona and Ramat Rachel.

The three well-preserved column heads revealed at the site show skilled workmanship and are of the majestic style depicted on the five-shekel Israeli coin. They are now readied for public display at the City of David heritage center, awaiting an influx of visitors once the corona threat eases.

MORE SECRETS IN THE CITY OF DAVID

The City of David itself has been giving up more incredible secrets as well over the past year. After locating the original well opening to the Gihon Spring in the 1990s and then the palace of King David in 2005, archaeologists have since unearthed the Pool of Siloam of New Testament fame, followed by the newest discovery of the ancient ‘Pilgrimage Road’ connecting the pool to the Temple Mount hundreds of meters to the north.

The Pilgrimage Road (or ‘Stepped Street’) is a paved pathway stretching some 600 meters from the Pool of Siloam uphill to the Temple Mount. Jewish pilgrims would take a ritual bath in the pool before ascending up the steps to worship at Herod’s refurbished Temple. It is now apparent that both sides of the street were lined with shops, offering pilgrims a variety of goods to buy after their long journey to Jerusalem.

Last January, a rare stone table top used to measure exact liquid volumes was unearthed in a large courtyard along the Pilgrimage Road, leading archaeologists to assess that the area served as a central square in the main market in Jerusalem in Second Temple times. The stone table attests to the weights and measures methods used in selling commodities in the shuk – in this case for olive oil or wine.

Underneath the Pilgrimage Road is a Roman-style drainage channel where evidence has emerged confirming ancient Jewish accounts that many Jews hid there during the siege of Titus on Jerusalem in 70 AD. It was the discovery of the sewer system a decade ago which led archaeologists to eventually find the paved street just overhead.

The street and market were open-air in the First Century but today they are located five meters (16 feet) under current street level. Work is being done in two shifts per day to simultaneously excavate the subterranean street and prepare it for the throngs of visitors expected within a few years.

OVERHAUL AT THE TOWER OF DAVID

Also of great interest to Christians will be the new finds soon to be on display at the iconic Tower of David, located at the Jaffa Gate entrance into the Old City. Last rebuilt by Suleiman the Magnificent in the 1500s, the historic citadel is using the fall-off in tourism to give the site a major overhaul for when the crowds return. The Tower’s revamped museum will boast seven new galleries which will tell the story of Jerusalem in all its time periods.

The work also includes the most extensive excavations in a century, and reports indicate it is already uncovering hidden passageways, ancient walls and fortifications, and other features unknown before. Most of the digs are focused on previously unstudied areas of the fortress dating to the Crusader and Islamic periods, when Jerusalem fell to Christian and Muslim invaders numerous times over several centuries. One hidden passage uncovered recently may have been used by Crusaders to escape the Citadel.

But the most exciting new area of the ancient fortress for Christians will be a place called the Kishle, which many now believe contains the courtyard where Jesus was brought before King Herod. The foundations of Herod’s Palace were discovered a couple years ago but have only been accessible to select group tours so far. But soon, the digs and renovations will hopefully allow all visitors to see an area where the “Pavement” – or Praetorian – was likely located. This was a public courtyard below Herod’s palace where many scholars now concur that Jesus was tried by Pontius Pilate.

The current excavations could therefore completely re-draw the traditional route of the Via Dolorosa – the ‘Way of Sorrows’ – which Jesus trod on his way to the Cross. So get ready for some new surprises when you can finally visit Jerusalem again. 😊
As we ring in the new year, the ICEJ is taking on an urgent challenge – assisting with a wave of 2,000 Ethiopian Jews being brought home to Israel.

Aliyah flights for these Ethiopian Jews started in December and will take several months to complete. The costs per person for bringing them home to Israel is currently higher than normal, but the Israeli government has decided to bring them as soon as possible. And the Jewish Agency is looking to the ICEJ to support this urgent Aliyah effort as much as we can.

The Ethiopian Jewish community can trace their heritage back to Moses, who married an Ethiopian woman (see Numbers 12:1-10). Some 135,000 now live in Israel, but thousands more have been left behind in Ethiopia because their ancestors were pressured to convert to Christianity several generations ago. There are over 8,000 of these “Falash Mura” still stuck in rundown transit camps in Addis Ababa and Gondar – many now living there for up to two decades in impoverished conditions. They have nothing to go back to, and they simply refuse to give up on their dream of being reunited with their families back in the Promised Land.

After much debate and many delays, the Israeli government finally decided in 2015 to allow them to come home. But the process has been slow and now their plight has worsened due to several developments:

1) Malnourishment: Ethiopia is suffering from a prolonged drought which has impacted the entire nation. Jewish and Christian groups (including the ICEJ) have helped feed and care for the Ethiopian Jews left in transit camps, but many are malnourished and need to be relocated to healthier surroundings.

2) Coronavirus: Much of Africa has been spared by COVID-19 so far, but Ethiopia has seen a high rate of infections and deaths.

3) Locust plague: There are currently massive swarms of locust devouring the land across Ethiopia and East Africa.

4) Conflict: A civil war has broken out between Ethiopian government forces and a regional rebel militia, with fighting reported near the Gondar transit camps.

The sudden insurrection in neighboring Tigray has been especially concerning to Israeli officials, as several rockets recently hit the Gondar airport and one of the Jews living in the camps died in a nearby border clash. He had been waiting for 24 years to come to Israel to be reunited with his 84 year-old grandmother, who lives alone in Kiryat Gat. In addition, reports have now surfaced that a local youth militia recently massacred 600 members of non-Tigrayan tribes in one village alone.

Thus, this latest wave of Ethiopian Aliyah has become an urgent humanitarian mission!

The ICEJ has flown over 2,200 Ethiopian Jewish immigrants to Israel in recent years, including 284 olim in the year 2020 – despite the Corona travel bans. Now the opportunity is here to help bring home several thousand more Ethiopian Jews who are desperate to reach Israel. It’s time for us to act!

Please consider a generous donation to help these very deserving people re-join their families in the Jewish homeland. May the Lord bless you richly as you donate towards this very urgent and worthy cause! 🙏
AN ALIYAH FAMILY WELCOMES TWINS BORN IN ISRAEL

BY ANASTASIYA GOODING

In May, the four members of the Fraerman family arrived in Israel from Moscow on a specially chartered ‘evacuation flight’ sponsored by the ICEJ. The mother, Tatyana, was 32 weeks pregnant with twins and needed extra paperwork and lots of persuasion with airport authorities to allow her to fly so close to term. Israel and Russia were both in the midst of strict Coronavirus lockdowns and their flight was the last opportunity for her to travel to Israel before giving birth. But they made it!

“In my mind, I expected to give birth in Israel,” Tatyana recounted. “But due to the Coronavirus situation, our flight was repeatedly delayed. The time drew nearer when I would be forbidden to fly, and we began to lose heart. How could this be?”

“Then, as if a gift of fate, we received word that our flight to Israel was scheduled. Suddenly there were suitcases, packing, making arrangements. Everything happened instantly!”

We reported their story several months ago, and after their two-week quarantine, the ICEJ TV team caught up with the Fraerman family in Nahariya, where they were settling into their new life in Israel after their frantic journey from Russia.

“At Ben-Gurion Airport, we were met by ICEJ staff and the Jewish Agency,” recalled Serguei. “Our children were presented with gifts and sweets, and we were photographed. Everything seemed to happen very quickly.”

Serguei and Tatyana shared a touching story of how their eldest daughter, Olga, wanted to bring her favourite scooter to Israel but could not. “All our luggage was at the maximum weight allowance for every person. The scooter is considered separate luggage, and we needed to pay extra for it,” said Serguei. “I told my daughter: let’s leave it, and we will buy another one when we get there... and she agreed.”

Aware that Olga sacrificed her scooter, the ICEJ team finished interviewing the family and then surprised them with new scooters for both daughters, as well as a new double stroller for the expected twins.

A few weeks later, Tatyana gave birth to the twins. The oldest is named David and the younger one is Semyon. Both are gentle and happy boys. Meanwhile, Olga has started school online and has many Russian-speaking friends in her class, who are helping her to learn Hebrew and understand her teachers. The youngest daughter, Lisa, attends kindergarten and has learned to count to ten in Hebrew. Tatyana looks after the house and the four children, while Sergei has found work.

Since arriving, the Fraerman family has quickly grown from four to six and are becoming part of the fabric of Israeli life. But there are many more Jewish families in the nations waiting to fulfil their dream of reaching the Land of Israel. 😊
HELPING ISRAELI CHILDREN WITH DISTANCE LEARNING AMID CORONA
ICEJ providing new students with computers to access remote classrooms

BY KAYLA MUCHNIK

Moving from another country to Israel is definitely a challenging feat, but can you imagine how daunting this could be for a child during a global pandemic? Eight-year-old Yirus recently made Aliyah from Ethiopia with her parents and five siblings. As she began school, she was instantly faced with the challenges of the language barrier, cultural differences, and the hardships of distance learning from home due to new COVID-19 governmental restrictions.

There are many children like Yirus, who are arriving in Israel at this particularly difficult time. Currently, almost 600 Ethiopian children and another 370 immigrant children from other nations around the world need extra help as they transition into a new - and now online - educational system. ‘Foundations’ is an important new education program which seeks to support students eight years old through twelfth grade, by providing the tools needed to attend their classes via Zoom, as well as daily physical interactions with a teacher who can help them with technical difficulties, learning Hebrew, and other subjects.

The majority of new immigrant children needing this program are Ethiopian, but it is open as well to other newly-arrived children living in aliyah centers run by the Jewish Agency for Israel. Due to COVID-19, many of these children face incredible difficulties in learning at home, because their homes are usually quite small and some immigrant families cannot afford internet connections to access their child’s online classes. In addition, their parents are also just learning the Hebrew language and culture themselves, so they are unable to help their child with any questions they may have.

Two immigrant children from Russia, Sergei (13 years old) and Alisa (11 years old) took part in the ‘Foundations’ program and received extra help with their language studies. This made all the difference for Sergei, who is showing great progress with Hebrew, is making friends, and enjoys his time at school. Since the coronavirus crisis began, the ICEJ donated games, Hebrew textbooks, school supplies, books, and a tablet to Sergei and Alisa.

Danielle Mor of the Jewish Agency told Nicole Yoder, ICEJ VP for Aid & Aliyah, how grateful they are for the ICEJ’s support of the ‘Foundations’ program.

“This enabled us to provide such a response in this time of need”, said Mor. “On behalf of Yirus, Sergui, Alisa and the many other families and children who benefit from the ‘Foundations’ program, the Jewish Agency sincerely thanks the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. Thanks to your support, these children will be supported and aided in their virtual school studies by trained professional staff.”

The generous giving of our Christian friends around the world has made this essential educational support possible and we are deeply grateful. Nevertheless, many additional immigrant and disadvantaged native Israeli children around the country need our help. A gift of $600 will help us purchase a computer or contribute educational support for a child. Join us to ensure a smooth transition and lay a foundation towards a bright future.

Make a difference in a child’s life today!

DONATE TODAY AT: ICEJ.ORG/CRISIS
PEACE-OF-MIND FOR ASHKELON GIRLS

ICEJ donates two bomb shelters to Israeli high school

BY LAURINA DRIESSE

Ashkelon sits on the southern Israeli coast and is home to many lower income families. Sadly, the city is within reach of terrorist rocket attacks from Gaza, and often finds itself on the receiving end of these barrages.

Many families feel insecure as they do not have a safe-room in their apartment. When the red-alert siren sounds, they run to find the nearest shelter. Schools operating in the area are required to have bomb shelters, otherwise they are not allowed to operate during heightened tensions. Knowing a shelter is nearby may be the only peace-of-mind parents have when sending their children to school.

The ICEJ recently visited the AMIT Technological High School in Ashkelon, which has a good reputation for dedicated students and advanced learning. On a Shabbat during the 2014 Gaza war with Hamas, this school took a direct hit from a rocket attack, destroying the entrance and several classrooms. Thankfully, none of the children were at school. However, what happened is engraved in the community’s memory and left a long-lasting mark on the school.

This national religious school has around 400 students, mostly boys. Recently, however, they started a separate girl’s program, allowing approximately 60 Orthodox girls to study separate from the boys in their own school complex. As the girls’ complex was being remodeled, the ICEJ heard about the urgent need for bomb-shelters on the premises.

Through generous donations received from Christians in the USA and Switzerland, the ICEJ could install two bomb shelters at the new Ulpana religious girls’ complex. At the dedication ceremony, Nicole Yoder, ICEJ Vice President of Aid and Aliyah, explained that the shelters were a gift from Christians who love Israel and wished them a blessed year ahead. The ICEJ plaque on the shelters serve as a continuous reminder of this demonstration of love.

The Director thanked our donors, adding that they take security very seriously and without such shelters, they would not have been able to open the new girls’ program. Nicole responded that “although they now have the option to run to the shelter, may it be that they won’t ever need to!” Knowing that the shelters are there, helps them to relax and focus on their studies.

When Nicole Yoder, ICEJ Vice President for Aid and Aliyah, met with Eli Cohen, the CEO of the food operation, he expressed much gratitude for our extra assistance.

“When this truck was from God. It really saved us in this time. Without it we would not have been able to meet the need”, said Cohen.

By “need”, he was referring to an increase of 1800% in the number of requests received for food packages due to coronavirus. Suddenly families who generally live on the brink of poverty but are usually able to manage, found themselves pushed into dire need when they were laid off work or placed on unpaid leave. Between March and November 2020, the refrigerated truck enabled the delivery of quality fresh produce and dairy products to around 50,000 Israeli families (150,000 people) impacted by the pandemic. In addition, the new truck made it possible to reach new geographical areas, allowing for more families in desperate circumstances to receive food.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many Israelis impacted by the coronavirus!
**EXPANSION TIME AT THE HAIFA HOME**

**BY YUDIT SETZ**

The ICEJ’s Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors has seen a lot of changes and expansion since we first started it in 2010. A few modest apartments grew to a large project with apartments in a dozen buildings spread over several streets, plus a community dining hall, museum, and activity center.

We are excited about the latest expansion of our Haifa Home. Renovation of the first and second floors of the newest ICEJ building is close to completion. It will be used for residents who need more care and have a live-in caregiver. Some current residents will be moved there soon and new residents added, while other new residents will fill the older vacated apartments. There will be new faces to welcome, each with personal stories of how they survived the Holocaust. Here is one...

**MY MOM WAS SO HAPPY HERE**

Bluma (her name means “flower” in Polish) moved into the Haifa Home over a year ago, coming from a nearby fourth-floor flat without an elevator. Due to difficulty in walking and health issues, she was no longer able to go outdoors. Her family, who all live abroad, had looked for other options, but nothing worked out. That is, until Bluma decided to move to the Haifa Home, which she had passed by many times. She was so happy to be part of the Haifa Home family.

As a young girl, Bluma started first grade one week before the German invasion of her native Poland. Her family was quickly forced into the Lodz ghetto but were able to escape to Russia, where they drifted around from place to place and experienced hunger, beatings, bombardments, and labour camps. More than three hundred members of her wider family perished back in Poland. But she made it through the war and afterwards moved to Israel, where she learned to design and make clothing like her father - a tailor.

Late in life, Bluma remained very independent and was still sewing clothes despite her failing eyesight. But she also had to start relying on others to care for her and had come to love the attention given to her by our staff.

Recently, Bluma’s health deteriorated quickly and she passed away on the 8th of November. Her daughter, who had been with her in those last weeks of her life, said: “My Mom was so happy here in the Home and loved you all so much.” It was a privilege for us to have known one more of our survivor heroes.

**ICEJ TEAM**

Our Haifa team currently consists of five Christians who have all been here more than a year, with Natalia our nurse now starting her third year. It has been such a joy to work with these dedicated, talented, and wonderful people. Kerstin, a German staffer who came via Worldwide Volunteers, is always happy to help wherever needed and is a ray of sunshine for everyone who meets her. This past summer, she started her second year with us and said: “It’s so beautiful to see how the relationship with the residents has grown and has become so close. It gives me the feeling that I am here for a reason and really needed.”

Natalia added: “There is nothing better than to share my life with my survivor family! We go together through joyful and difficult things. We laugh and cry together. So many times, I am at the right place at the right time to help with an urgent need and there is nothing that gives me more joy.”

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SOFIE**

Sofie has been in the Haifa Home almost from the beginning ten years ago. This week she turned 93. That was a good reason for a party, which was held in our activity center. With a nice cake and a small group of residents, it was a great time of celebration and joy amid the Corona restrictions. Sofie was overjoyed with the attention and love she received.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Haifa Home over the past decade. The work we do there is touching precious lives every day, and more residents will soon be added as we complete our latest expansion. Please consider a generous donation to support our ministry and care for these deserving Holocaust survivors.

Give today at: icej.org/haifa
ANNUAL JERUSALEM PRAYER BREAKFAST

ICEJ President Dr Jürgen Bühler recently spoke during the annual Jerusalem Prayer Breakfast, which was held in October as an online event due to the coronavirus pandemic. Other featured speakers included Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, Knesset Speaker Yariv Levin US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, US Special Ambassador Sam Brownback, President of Honduras Juan Orlando Hernandez, Anne Graham Lotz, and Gordon Robertson, among others.

ANNUAL CHRISTIAN MEDIA SUMMIT

In October, ICEJ President Dr Jürgen Bühler was a featured speaker at the fourth annual Christian Media Summit, sponsored by the Israel Government Press Office. The online event drew tens of thousands of viewers and included addresses by President Reuven Rivlin, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, among other speakers.

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UNITING TO CONFRONT THE RISING ANTISEMITISM - this was the central message of a conference held in southern Germany in September which drew approximately 280 delegates from across the country. ICEJ-Germany, a key partner in the event, was represented by three speakers.

The opening address by Dr Michael Blume, Commissioner on Antisemitism for the German state of Baden-Württemberg, was followed by high-profile speakers on effective measures to counter the current rise of antisemitism. Gottfried Bühler, National Director of ICEJ-Germany, urged church leaders not to treat Israel and the Jewish people as a side issue but to regularly address it in their teaching.

Dr Blume expressed concern that merely teaching Holocaust history in schools was not sufficient. He emphasised the particular importance of personal encounters between Jews and non-Jews. Bühler agreed and related how ICEJ-Germany regularly organises visits by Holocaust survivors to public schools which have proven to greatly impact hundreds of students involved.

Another conference speaker was Ahmed Mansour, an Israeli-born German-Arab psychologist and author. “Germany has a historical responsibility, in particular to fight antisemitism”, he said.

Holocaust survivor Ruth Rosenstock also shared her experiences during World War II. She survived the Shoah in Mikuliczyn (modern-day Ukraine). Her father and many other Jews from her village were brutally murdered by the Nazis. “I owe it to God to tell my story”, Rosenstock told a moved audience.

The one concern all the speakers unanimously emphasised was the increasing intensity of antisemitism in Germany and worldwide. More than 75 years after the Shoah, it is more important than ever for Christians and other friends of Israel to not only acknowledge this development but also stand alongside Israel and the Jewish people – in word and deed.

The delegates also discussed current developments in various seminars and workshops. In his seminar “Anti-Israelism – the new Antisemitism?” Gottfried Bühler explained that indifference towards God’s plan with Israel is one breeding ground for antisemitism. Christoph Scharnweber, Isaiah-62-Prayer-Coordinator, highlighted how politics, the media and anti-Israel boycott movements repeatedly evaluate Israel through a double standard and how Christians can counter this. Ester Heinzmann of ICEJ’s PR team elaborated on the dangerous spread of Jew-hatred on the Internet and why Christians in particular need to join the Jewish people in fighting this poison.

For several years now, many Evangelical, Charismatic and other revivalist communities in Gabon have joined other local congregations in support of Israel. This year, the ICEJ branch in Gabon organised a 40th anniversary celebration of the Christian Embassy during the Feast of Tabernacles. ICEJ-Gabon National Director Judicaël Mounguengui was joined by pastors Andrée Prisca Magnoumba, Saturnin Ndotit and others as they gathered several churches for the occasion. The conference featured the blowing of the shofar, singing of Israel’s national anthem, sermons on the Feast of Tabernacles and the peace of Jerusalem, and performances of Jewish dances. Several senior clergy were present, as well as many different communities, and all agreed to start planning pro-Israel rallies in the West African country.

1. ICEJ-Gabon National Director Judicaël Mounguengui. 2. Celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in Gabon.
ICEJ-USA MOBILISING LEADERS AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

Over recent weeks, the USA Branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem gathered pastors and Christian leaders for an informative series of webinars discussing the explosive growth of antisemitism in the United States. Organised under the banner of the American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI) network, the webinars were designed not just to educate but to begin a national conversation among Christian leaders about the problem and how to collaborate and mobilise against it.

Last year, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recorded more incidents of assault, vandalism, and harassment against American Jews than in any year since they began tracking such incidents in 1979. Since then, coronavirus conspiracy theories have blamed Jews for the pandemic—to either dominate the world or make money off the antidote—and many protestors were heard chanting anti-Israel and anti-Jewish slogans in the streets.

“How could this be happening in the United States, where support for Israel and the Jewish people—from the President and Congress down to thousands of churches and millions of citizens—is so strong?” asked ICEJ-USA National Director Dr. Susan M. Michael. “This rise in antisemitism is alarming. However, what has me the most concerned is the lack of outrage against it.”

The webinars were the first step in bringing greater awareness to antisemitism by allowing experts to discuss the problem and recommend solutions. Speakers included US State Department Special Envoy Elan Carr, and US Commission on International Religious Freedom member Gary Bauer speaking about the US government response to the global phenomenon.

Carr described the problem as coming from the far right, far left, and Islamists. US government policies aim to help provide physical safety for places of worship, to fight hate crimes, and to promote the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. In the second webinar, Alyza Lewin of the Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law (LDB) described the problem Jewish students are facing on campuses where a fundamental part of their ethnic identity as Jews—Zionism—is attacked. Liora Rez, cofounder of Stopantisemitism.org, also addressed how anti-Semitic tropes proliferate on social media and influence many spheres of society.

The next webinar focused on vulnerabilities within the Christian community. Dr. Michael Brown discussed what we can learn from the error of antisemitism in Christian history, while Dr. Gerald McDermott covered the fallacies of Replacement theology, which was the theological seedbed for centuries of Christian antisemitism.

The closing session was a discussion of how antisemitism affects Israel in the International arena, led by Mr. Noam Katz, Deputy Director General, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The series was brought to a close with a conversation amongst the Christian leaders on unifying against this hatred.

“While the webinars were a first step in a campaign of increasing awareness, it was a major step forward,” said Michael. “We will build on this foundation in the coming months and year, and with God’s help, we will make sure this evil ideology does not take root in American society.”

LARGE FEAST CELEBRATIONS IN IVORY COAST
BY ICEJ STAFF

With Coronavirus preventing travel to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles, the ICEJ-Ivory Coast branch decided to host a local Feast celebration in Abidjan. More than 2,800 Christians from all backgrounds and regions of the country gathered in the capital’s Palace of Culture to celebrate Tabernacles in early October 2020.

The highlight was the presence of many senior Christian leaders from around the country.

Considering the current socio-political challenges in the country, it was an opportunity for the whole Body of Christ to come together to pray for Israel as well as social peace in the Ivory Coast. Board chairman, Dr Ghoagnon Apollinaire, and national director Pastor David SiIue Zana welcomed Evangelical and Protestant leaders from across the nation to the event.

The national government also felt honoured by this one-day conference and even took part in organising it. The national Director of Worship was present, as was Ambassador Claude Sahi, representing the Prime Minister.

With performances by several local worship bands, the conference was beautiful and impacting, especially the parade of nations featuring a number of French-speaking African countries in attendance. It brought back memories of past Feasts in Jerusalem and inspired those who have never been, to attend next time in Jerusalem. Besides praying for the Ivory Coast, the gathering also prayed for Israel, for peace in the Middle East, and for ICEJ branches around the world.
God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Isaiah 49:22 says, “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: ‘See, I will beckon to the nations, I will lift up my banner to the peoples; they will bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their hips’.”

The ICEJ exists because forty years ago the Lord beckoned to the four corners of the earth and the nations came: Ordinary people who took God at His word and, through their lives, accomplished extraordinary things for the people of Israel.

Five years ago, I arrived in Jerusalem to serve as Assistant to Barry Denison, ICEJ’s Vice President of Operations. Prior to accepting this volunteer position in Israel, I had never planned to live abroad. I had never even stepped foot off the continent of North America. Nor had I ever heard of the ICEJ, and Thanksgiving dinner was my definition of a “Feast”.

But the Lord heard my unconditional “yes” to Jesus, and this is where He brought me. I guess you could say the God of Israel beckoned, I said yes, and here I am. Every ICEJ staff member has a similar story – leaving “father and mother, daughters and sons”, surrendering to the Lord’s plan over their own, and coming in obedience to the Holy Land.

Woven through those first years are shining memories: Conducting visitor tours of our former Rachel Imeinu property; working VIP receptions in the Embassy garden; painting a single mom’s apartment; weekend outings with new friends. Some memories are humorous and ironic, like Feast 2016 when I was trapped in a broken Pais Arena elevator on opening night and missed the entire Parade of Nations. For someone tasked with solving problems it was an awkward, yet laughable, place to be.

Others are poignant and priceless: Learning to line dance alongside residents of our Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors; standing inside a newly-installed bomb shelter, trying to imagine the piercing shriek of air raid sirens outside; greeting new Olim at the airport and seeing with my own eyes the ongoing fulfillment of prophetic promises.

The Bible springs to life here. On a recent visit to the Garden of Gethsemane, I lifted my eyes to see the majestic Temple Mount just meters away. The close proximity of the Garden to where the Temple stood was jarring. I could not help but wonder if, during his night of agony there, Jesus gazed on that glorious Golden Gate to strengthen himself. “...For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame...” (Hebrews 12:2) Everything about Jesus became more real to me that day.

Living in Israel is not like experiencing it from a tour bus; the Bible comes alive in a different way. Rubbing shoulders, making friends, shopping together, everyday dinner conversations; I began to see extraordinary parallels between these very normal, ordinary people and Bible characters from Sunday school.

Every time I spoke to Holocaust survivors, I would picture Nehemiah rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem with a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other. Nurses, engineers, farmers, teachers – individuals who had survived unimaginable horrors, and came to Israel to build a life for themselves and their children. With bare hands they built a nation and, at the same time, faced an endless string of attacks from surrounding nations. Ordinary people who God used in an extraordinary way.

The Israel I leave is vastly different from the one which greeted me five years ago. So much has changed. I have changed. In fact, the entire world has changed. What a strange, and yet perfect time to start something completely new, hand-in-hand with Jesus.

As I return to the United States to join the team at the ICEJ USA branch, I am deeply grateful to the Lord and to the ICEJ for the blessing and privilege of these treasured years in Jerusalem, and for the wealth of memories, new connections, insight and perspective I have gained along the way.
HOME CARE VISITS OPEN ‘WHOLE WORLD’ TO LEAH

BY MAXINE CARLILL

Although Leah did not receive any visitors from overseas in 2020 due to the pandemic, her small, cheerful Jerusalem apartment has welcomed many foreign visitors in the past through her relationship with ICEJ Homecare. Which is why on one recent morning, Leah’s breakfast had an international flavour. As she ate with her Moldavian caregiver, Homecare nurse Corrie van Maanen paid a scheduled visit along with guests from Australia and the Netherlands. Always the gracious hostess, Leah told colourful stories about her native Ukraine, which she left 25 years ago for Israel.

Although raised in a Communist society, Leah learned about Jewish holidays and traditions from her grandfather (a rabbi) and grandmother. Now in Israel, she enjoys all the Jewish celebrations, especially as she says they bring everyone together.

Many Jewish people from Ukraine and other former Soviet republics grew up with no connection to Judaism or knowledge of the Bible, and yet they felt a deep drawing to Israel, Leah said. But when she was diagnosed with a chronic disease, it crushed her dreams of reaching Israel. Then in 1994 she read of a new treatment available in Israel. Leah wrote to the doctor named in the article, who responded: “Are you Jewish? Come to us.” Her mother had passed away, but Leah and her father made the journey together.

Regrettably, the treatment did not work as hoped, and other health problems have ensued. But Leah does not regret moving to Israel. Adjusting to a new language and vastly different culture was difficult. However, she learned Hebrew and joined a support group as well as a club for disabled people which provides lectures, holidays, and friendship. “Life in Israel has not been boring” she insisted.

The pandemic brought those activities to a close and Leah has faced some very low moments over the past year. However, her good humour helps her cope with life in an electric wheelchair. When the lift has not worked, or a mishap occurs on the street, she still maintains “everyone is so helpful.”

Her English-speaking skills learned from university, and honed through a wheelchair-bound American friend, has opened “the whole world” to her when receiving our Homecare visitors. Leah has told Corrie many times that the connections Homecare has given her to many faraway Christian friends has been an extremely important part of her life in Israel.

Changes Among Jerusalem Staff

As we enter the new year, there are several staff changes underway in our Jerusalem headquarters.

Julaine Stark, Director of the Media and Publications Department, will be returning to America to work with our USA branch. She has served the ministry well over the past five years here in Jerusalem, starting out as an assistant to Barry Denison, Vice President for Operations, and coordinator of the Feast team members. Two years ago, Julaine moved over to Media and Publications. ICEJ-USA national director Dr Susan Michael will be receiving someone with proven skills and creative abilities who knows the inner workings of our global ministry.

Laurina Driesse will be the new Director of Media and Publications. Laurina hails from South Africa, where she studied Communications and previously worked as a Communications Manager. She previously served as Housing Coordinator and Feast Team Member Coordinator. Her administrative and writing abilities will be invaluable for the ministry in her new position.

Amanda Gross recently ended her time as head of our TV Department, where she oversaw the production of many inspiring, high-quality video projects. Ionatan Muchnik, who has been on the TV team for several years, will now manage the department.

His wife Kayla Muchnik, a staff writer and assistant in Media and Publications, recently gave birth to their first child, baby Ava, and will become a full-time mother. Anastasiya Gooding, from Russia, has taken over many of Kayla’s duties with great skill and grace.

We recently had to say farewell to Carlos Magnos Sales, director of the Arise young adults program, who returned to Bolivia to get married – mazel tov!

Lily Sironi will now serve as the new Arise director, in addition to her role as Social Media Manager. Lily earned a BA degree at the InterDisciplinary Center in Herzliya before joining our staff two years ago. She is eager to start reaching the next generation with the message of Israel. And finally....

Kelera Cirimaiwasa has come on full-time staff to serve as our new Virtual Producer, managing our webinars, prayer gatherings and other online productions, among other duties. “Kay” and her husband Harry, a member of our TV Department, arrived early last year from Fiji.

Congratulations and thanks to all!
Dr Jürgen Bühler, ICEJ President

Leah with Homecare nurse Corrie van Maanen (Amada Gross/ICEJ)
Although Christians could not come to Jerusalem in person for our annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration in October, the ICEJ’s innovative online Global Feast reached its largest audience ever, with many attending hundreds of Sukkot gatherings and watch parties in dozens of countries worldwide. The testimonies we have received from Feast viewers around the world indicate the online gathering truly had a global impact. Here are some of those testimonies:

“Thank you to all who made the virtual trip to Jerusalem possible. We had tears in our eyes sitting in front of the screen during the first live streaming. The worship of the local musicians, the messages and pictures were arranged in a splendid way. We were especially touched by the Isaiah 19 seminar. The Spirit of God is at work.”

Daniel and Gabriela Hess
OF ICEJ-SWITZERLAND

“The Lord had already shown me the blessing of praying for Israel, but I did not know in depth what the Feast of Tabernacles mentioned in Zechariah 14 really means... There is an economic crisis at this time in Argentina. Our province Córdoba was going through a 5-month period of droughts and very intense fires, burning thousands of hectares... During the Feast the situation was very critical, so we prayed for the province and we asked God for “rain of the Feast of Tabernacles”, since we participated in obedience and the Lord promised to send rain. After the Feast, we continued to bless Israel and ask the Lord to send us rain. And then it began to rain, for a whole week! The governor of the province himself recognised that it was God who sent the rain... Glory to the Lord!”

Pastor Diego Freytes
FROM ARGENTINA

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“You can still enjoy the Feast

All the Feast content – including the seven live shows, 100+ seminars, 25 virtual tours, the worship afterglows, Garden Tomb Communion service and more – will remain available on our conferencing platform until October 2021. Our $99 and $149 premium Feast packages are still available for purchase, giving you full access well into the new year, plus special gifts from our online shop. See more at: on.icej.org/FOT2020
Over the past year, the ICEJ’s prayer ministry has expanded and flourished in amazing new ways. In the early months of the coronavirus pandemic last spring, our leadership in Jerusalem sought the Lord about how to respond to this crisis. As many nations around the world began to close their borders and go into lockdown, it seemed the connection with our ICEJ friends and supporters worldwide could be impacted. However, our Father has turned it all for good in that we have found ways to stay connected and engage in more prayer times together than ever before.

In late March, two different prayer initiatives were birthed in the same week. First, we were approached by Jewish scholar Dr. Dimitry Radyshevsky about joining Jews and Christians in reading the Book of Psalms together online as prayers to the Lord for deliverance from the corona threat. The initiative “Calling to God Together” quickly drew hundreds of viewers, as well as Psalm readers from the Knesset and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem all the way to far-off Lapland and the islands of the Pacific.

That same week, we also launched our first online Global Prayer Gathering (GPG) as a way to connect local Israeli and international church and ministry leaders to unite our faith and voices in prayer. Co-hosted by ICEJ President Jürgen Bühler and South African evangelist Angus Buchan, the GPG soon was joined by thousands around the globe watching and praying on Zoom, Facebook Live and YouTube. Other regular guests have included Peter Tsukahira and Suzette Hattingh, while Daniel Kolenda, Steven Strang, Paul Wilbur, Mats Ola Ishoel and many others have made special guest appearances. The prayer sessions have been fresh and powerful, and many have told us how it has ministered and sustained them in prayer during these difficult months.

A third prayer initiative was launched during the Feast of Pentecost in early June. This global Pentecost involved hundreds of intercessors worldwide forming an international 12-hour prayer chain starting here in Jerusalem as Shavuot began, and being carried by ICEJ national branches and other prayer ministries around the globe. The response was astonishing as more than 40 nations joined in the special prayer vigil – from Fiji to Egypt to Europe and the Americas.

Afterwards, the feedback from our ICEJ national directors was overwhelmingly positive, while adding that 12 hours was not enough. Thus, we initiated longer global prayer vigils of 36 hours and then 72 hours, timed to coincide with the biblical festival Rosh Chodesh (marked by the new moon at the beginning of each Hebrew month). It was clear early on that this is a time which God has set aside to meet with His people, and six months later we are carrying on these Rosh Chodesh prayer chains with much enthusiasm among the national branches and prayer ministries involved.

Amid all this prayer activity, we also are still continuing with our monthly Isaiah 62 Prayer Initiative, which is going as strong as ever, with hundreds of churches and prayer groups, as well as thousands of individual intercessors taking part on the first Wednesday of every month. Our Isaiah 62 prayer partners now come from more than 150 nations worldwide.

So as we begin a new year, we want to invite you to participate in as many of the ICEJ’s current prayer initiatives as you can. Please note the following schedule for our upcoming prayer events:

**ISAIAH 62 PRAYER INITIATIVE:**
A global day of prayer and fasting every first Wednesday of the month. Subscribe to our Isaiah 62 monthly Prayer Letter and Prayer Points at: icej.org/join

**ICEJ GLOBAL PRAYER GATHERING:**
An online prayer event held every Wednesday from 4:00-to-6:00 PM (Israel time); Join us at: on.icej.org/ICEJGlobalPrayer

**ROSH CHODESH PRAYER CHAIN:**
A global 72-hour prayer vigil beginning with the new moon each month on the Hebrew calendar.
- January 13th, 6:00 PM -to- January 16th, 6:00 PM
- February 11th, 6:00 PM -to- February 14th, 6:00 PM
Join us during these times at: on.icej.org/RoshChodesh

For more information on ICEJ Prayer events, please visit our website at icej.org/prayer
ICEJ’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL
The ICEJ’s 40th Anniversary Journal is a colorful, inspiring 64-page photographic review of the Christian Embassy’s journey alongside Israel over the past four decades. Look back on the many ways the ICEJ has been blessing and comforting Israel and the Jewish people since 1980, all on behalf of our Christian friends and supporters worldwide.

COMMUNION CUP
Carved from genuine olive wood. Feast of Tabernacles engraved.

PREPARE THE WAY T-SHIRTS
Available in black.
Official T-Shirt of the Feast of Tabernacles “Prepare the Way” 2020

ICEJ CALENDAR
2021
New ICEJ Calendar “Life in Israel” Jewish and Christian holidays. Isaiah 62 prayer dates every month. Torah portion and Haftarah. 14 beautiful pictures of everyday life in Israel. Special events of ICEJ Jerusalem. Each calendar day has a writing area.

ISRAEL RISING MUSIC CD
DOUG HERSHEY
Introducing the Israel Rising 70th Anniversary Commemorative CD!
This CD has 14 powerful songs filled with a Heart for Israel. The listener will be taken on a musical and pictorial journey, blending Hebrew and English vocals with ancient and modern music, celebrating Israel’s 70th Anniversary in song! (Various Artists)

JERUSALEM COMPASS
The Jerusalem Compass was developed in Jerusalem and is patented in the US. Instead of pointing north, it points only in the direction of Jerusalem from any point on the globe. Fashioned from pure solid brass, the lid is 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 found on many ancient carvings in Jerusalem around the first temple period.

ICEJ SHOMER PENDANT, 24K GOLD PLATED
This unique pendant is designed with a replica of the ‘Zion Mule Corps’ symbol on the front and the ICEJ logo encircled by Isaiah 62:6a in Hebrew on the back. This reminds us to be a ‘shomer’ or watchman for Jerusalem.

FREE GIFT! ICEJ PIN
When you purchase a Feast Package, receive this ICEJ Pin as our thank you gift for your generous support! *$15 USD Value

VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE AND RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT ON ALL PURCHASES!
Go to: ICEJSTORE.COM and use the discount code: WFIJ2021ICEJ – The special 10% discount for your purchases at Embassy Resources is valid throughout 2021
THE NEW JERUSALEM - ANOINTING OIL
BRIDAL GARDEN, ROSE OF SHARON • 10ML

This premium anointing oil has been hand crafted in Israel using extra virgin olive oil made from olive trees around Jerusalem. It has been scented and mixed according to ancient Hebrew recipes by using biblical essential oils and fragrances sourced from Middle and Far East. This bottle of anointing oil has been dedicated to God and soaked in prayer and it was been officially tested for quality.

BROKEN SILENCE
BY BETTY BAUSCH-POLAK & LIESJE AUERBACH-POLAK

Broken Silence tells the fascinating story of two Dutch Jewish sisters both of whom survived World War II. Betty, the elder sister, stayed in The Netherlands under a false identity. Her husband joined the Resistance, was caught by the Germans and executed. Betty was imprisoned, but miraculously survived the war. Liesje (Elisheva) was sent to the Bergen Belsen concentration camp in Germany. In July 1944 she was selected as one of the 220 Jewish prisoners exchanged for German Templars living in Palestine. It saved her life.

16 USD

FOUNDAIONAL TEACHING
5 BOOKS SERIES BY MALCOLM HEDDING

Zionism as the touchstone of everything that is wrong with the traditional evangelicalism of the previous generation. Christians, right across the denominational spectrum need to be equipped with the theological understanding to make an informed, balanced and biblically articulate defense of Israel.

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Discover how God’s grace covers failure and sin, and justifies you freely as a gift. Within these pages, you will be encouraged as you find new freedom, revelation, and joy in this in-depth study of the Ten Commandments.

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WHEN GOD SHOWS UP
BY R.T. KENDALL

God can answer your prayers in many different ways, showing up at times when you least expect it. When He does answer your call, will you recognize Him? Will you be open to the way He chooses to come? Are you ready for God to work in your life?

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THE HIDDEN ROOT CAUSES OF THE HOLOCAUST
BY COLONEL JOHN T. SOMERVILLE USMC (RET.)

This book clarifies how Replacement Theology, Anti-Semitism, and the Holocaust are horribly and intricately linked to each other. We must realize that the demonic forces which caused the Holocaust are still alive and at work. Are we going to learn and address the hard lessons of the past? Will the church remain silent and cowardly again? In order not to be impacted and overwhelmed by Replacement Theology, we must understand where it came from, recognize its disguises and take a vocal, personal and unwavering stand against it.

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