TABERNACLE WITH GOD
The Tabernacle of God is a theme that runs from the first pages to last pages of the Bible. In this magazine you will read how God tabernacled with His people around the world even during this year’s Feast of Tabernacles. People experienced His presence unhindered by the restrictions of Covid. And, what surprised us all, was that tabernacles (Succahs) were built all around the world.

In the lead article I share how this theme of God ‘tabernacling with His people’ represents so much of the character of a God who has always dwelled in, ‘from tent to tent’ (1 Chronicles 17:5). A God who is on the move and likes to dwell with His people, wherever they gather.

In October for the first time, I had an opportunity to visit Dubai. Attending the board meetings of Empowered21 we had the opportunity to visit an impressive city that rose out of the desert within the past decades. Dubai itself is in many ways a spectacular city. The Burj Khalifa over-towers the entire city that has become like a new Babylon of our times, gathering the people from all the nations of the world for one purpose: to make money. I could not help to think on Genesis 11 when in the same region men built a tower ‘to make a name for themselves.’ How different is our God who is not bound nor dependent on glorious buildings but dwells with him who is ‘poor and of a contrite spirit’. (Isaiah 66:1-2)

When I booked my flight to Dubai, I marveled to see that everyday 3-5 direct connections between Israel and Dubai exist, demonstrating that the new Abrahamic Accords is indeed alive and filled daily with hundreds of people going back and forth. At the meetings we attended I was greatly encouraged to hear from leaders around the world that despite Covid, the work of the Lord is expanding. People are praying more than ever, and new churches are being established around the world. I was greatly encouraged to learn that many of the denominational leaders gathered there also actively support Israel. God is on the move!

Also, here in Jerusalem we were blessed again this year, even though we saw another year of lockdowns and restrictions, our God is not locked down nor restricted for His people. Even though we hoped that we could welcome you all again in Jerusalem, our virtual Feast brought Jerusalem into churches and living rooms in over 100 nations. And again, most importantly God was there and moved in many powerful ways.

By the grace of God, our work in Jerusalem keeps expanding as new requests for help come to us from all over Israel. We are thankful to God and to all of you who support us in prayer and finances. I hope you enjoy this new magazine and I pray that as you read it that God will tabernacle also with you!

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
President
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

COVER PHOTO: Feast Watch Parties and Succahs around the world!

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visit www.icej.org/media/word-jerusalem
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At this year’s Feast of Tabernacles, we heard again from so many people around the world that from wherever they joined us, they felt a tangible presence of God. Miracles, healing of relationships, answers to prayer, all took place while watching the Feast. It was amazing to again witness this as it is now our second online Feast celebration when pilgrims could not be with us in Jerusalem in person. Yet despite lockdowns and travel restrictions, God was not locked down, neither was He restricted. He was very present in homes and watch parties, wherever people joined us for the Feast. God indeed was tabernacling with His people around the world.

‘The God who tabernacles with His people’ is a theme that runs deep through the Word of God, and it reflects many of the spiritual truths which surround the Feast of Tabernacles.

One of the most frequently asked questions I receive around the world is: “What about the third Temple?” Of course, there are prophetic passages that refer to a future Temple. But it seems that throughout history, men were more preoccupied and excited about the concept of a temple than God was. His preferred vehicle of habitation was always a simpler, tent-like structure rather than a glorious stone building.

From the beginning, God instructed Israel to build Him a tent to dwell in rather than a temple. And this was not because Israel did not know of any alternatives. On the contrary, Abraham came from one of the earliest civilisations in Ur of Chaldea, which built massive stone structures for their gods. The best known is the Ziggurat of Ur, a man-made ‘Mountain of God’ to worship the moon god. When Israel dwelt in Egypt, they saw not only the gigantic pyramids of Giza, but the whole land was filled with large temples to a legion of gods worshipped by the Egyptians—and some have even survived until today.

When the Lord led Israel out of Egypt, He instructed Moses to build Him a dwelling place, but it had no resemblance to these towering monuments of worship. Instead, it was a simple portable tent structure. This was not a command arising from bare necessity of travel, but Moses told his people to build what he saw in heaven. And there he saw the tabernacle of GOD INDEED WAS TABERNACLING WITH MEN!

- REVELATION 21:3 -
his wish to adequately worship the God he loved, a proper house of worship for God came out of true God was King David. His desire to build the first person to build a temple to the one God (Exodus 25:9, 40). And this heavenly reality has not changed since then. Near the very end of the Bible, the Apostle John wrote: “After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.” (Revelation 15:5) These things I looked, and behold, the temple of the Bible, the Apostle John wrote: “After this I looked, and behold, a vast temple in heaven was opened.” (Revelation 15:5) When I looked, I saw heaven opened, and there were thrones. And another angel said, “Where is the temple of God that you will build? And where is the place of My rest?” (Isaiah 66:1) He knew to contain God in a building was impossible. This very thought also separated the God of Israel from all other nations, with their temples and shrines. The God of Israel was the Creator of heaven and earth. He cannot be confined to a fixed place of worship. He is omnipresent. He can be encountered anywhere and often in the most unusual places. Richard Wurmbrand, a hero of the persecuted church in communist Romania, was imprisoned for years and severely tortured for his faith in Jesus. Yet he said that he experienced the glory of God, the manifest presence of Jesus, more in his prison cells than in any church buildings he ever visited afterwards.

But that night, God rebuked Nathan: “For I have not dwelt in a house since the time that I brought the children of Israel up from Egypt, even to this day, but have moved about in a tent and in a tabernacle.” (2 Samuel 7:6) An earthly temple was never within the intentions of God, but His desire was always more to tabernacle with His people. God’s presence was always on the move, or ready to move. It was the very prayer of Moses that God’s presence would move with Israel. This moving presence was Israel’s guiding light, the very sign that distinguished God’s people from all other peoples. (Exodus 33:16) Yes, God did choose Jerusalem as a special place where His presence would dwell for eternity. Countless people have testified to me how they experience that unique presence of God in Jerusalem, especially at the Western Wall. Some of my friends were called there to new ministries; lives were changed at this unique location. And God surely allowed David’s son Solomon to build a Temple for him, and promised His eyes would always be on this House. But perhaps God understood the human mind and foresaw that man would be too tempted to reduce His presence just to that one location in Jerusalem.

Isaiah, maybe more than any other Hebrew prophet, understood that God’s very presence could never be confined to a building: “Thus says the Lord: “Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?” (Isaiah 66:1) He knew to contain God in a building was impossible. This very thought also separated the God of Israel from all other nations, with their temples and shrines. The God of Israel was the Creator of heaven and earth. He cannot be confined to a fixed place of worship. He is omnipresent. He can be encountered anywhere and often in the most unusual places. Richard Wurmbrand, a hero of the persecuted church in communist Romania, was imprisoned for years and severely tortured for his faith in Jesus. Yet he said that he experienced the glory of God, the manifest presence of Jesus, more in his prison cells than in any church buildings he ever visited afterwards.

The Apostle Paul declared to the philosophers and scholars of his time in Athens: “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.” (Acts 17:24-25)

It is true a tabernacle, a tent, was even less able to contain this endless and all-powerful God, but the tent represented more the nature and character of God. He is ever on the move. It reminds us of the words of Jesus to Nicodemus: “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8) There is an aspect to our God that is lively and on the move, and so are His people.

The era of corona has been a reminder of this. Many of our church structures have remained empty over the past year or more. Here in Jerusalem, the Pais Arena where our Feast is held every year has remained empty during Succot. In so many ways, we had hoped to welcome our Feast pilgrims from around the world to Jerusalem once again. But God had other plans. At the same time, we heard so many testimonies of how God flooded living rooms and meeting halls with His presence while people watched our Feast programs this year.

Meeting with a group of international Evangelical leaders in recent days, they all said...
corona represents a recalibration of ministry. God is reminding us of a forgotten truth that He desires to tabernacle with His people not just in large halls in Jerusalem, or mega-church buildings or mass crusades, but His indwelling glory can be experienced wherever two or three are gathered in His name.

This means there are certain qualities of the human heart that attract the presence and attention of God: humility before Him and utmost respect for His word. It echoes the very heart attitudes lauded by Jesus in the Sermon of the Mount: the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, the merciful, and the pure of heart. Jesus calls them “blessed” because God takes notice and looks to tabernacle with such.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a time when God reminds Israel of their own tabernacle journey through the desert. When Israel arrived in the Promised Land, He commanded: “You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” (Leviticus 23:42-43)

The Feast also is a reminder to all of us on the fleeting nature of man. Paul relates to this in his second letter to the Corinthians. “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,” (2 Corinthians 5:1-2).

Here, Paul refers to our own very body as being a tabernacle, a succah. By that he means that our earthly bodies are just temporary forms which one day will be replaced by a far greater abode. He also admits that in this tent of our body, we will groan at times. Even though we are wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14), these bodies are still fragile, often weak and even prone to sin. That is why Paul shouts in despair: “Who will deliver me from this body of death?” (Romans 7:24)

But the amazing truth is that this very same frail tabernacle of our human body can become the very dwelling place of God, the temple of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was in Jerusalem during Succot, he made a statement that surely reminded many on the future temple envisioned in Ezekiel 47. The prophet saw the future temple become a spring of life-giving, healing water. Jesus said: “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38) Therefore, the hope of a future temple in Jerusalem can become a reality for you here and now.

What an amazing reality that is, when we as believers can become a sanctuary for the indwelling glory and presence of the Lord. And not only that, it also will become a sanctuary of God for the people around us. People meeting with us can encounter the God who dwells within us. Just as Moses prayed, this mobile presence we carry wherever we go is what sets us apart from the world around us. It makes us a light that shines in darkness.

But it is upon us to cultivate that presence and make the Holy Spirit feel welcome and at home in our lives. Or to put it another way, if your body can be the very abode or dwelling place of God, He only will feel at home with us if He is made master of our lives. As master of the house, He wants us to give Him the right to move around the furniture in our lives. His presence will thus affect our habits, daily activities and even our secret ambitions. He will not accept being confined to just one room, one compartment of our lives. He wants to fill every corner and aspect of our lives. But if we do this, great things can happen! People around us will be impacted as streams of living water flow from the sanctuary of our life.

And finally, yes, here in Jerusalem we all are eager to see every one of you back in the city of Jerusalem. We cannot wait to have you back with us at the next Feast of Tabernacles to celebrate with us here in Jerusalem and to experience with all of you how God will tabernacle among His people right here in city which carries His name. Until then, I pray that we all will experience His manifest presence wherever we live. “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men!” 😊
Barry Denison, ICEJ VP for Operations addresses attendees at the Abrahamic Business Circle’s Agriculture Investment Forum in Dubai.

Yad Vashem, the official Holocaust memorial and museum in Israel, recently appointed a new chairman, Mr. Dani Dayan, to replace Avner Shalev to head this revered institution. Dr. Jürgen Bühler, President of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, congratulated Chairman Dayan on his appointment and expressed his optimism that Dayan would continue to build and expand the ICEJ’s special partnership with Yad Vashem through the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem initiative. Dayan is a former chairman of the YESHA Council of Israeli settlements and later served as Israel’s Consul General in New York.

In a video greeting to the ICEJ’s recent Feast of Tabernacles gathering, Dayan said, “I commend you for having Yad Vashem as part of this Feast... I call on you to continue being part of the educating process against antisemitism, [and] of remembrance of the Holocaust, the most terrible human tragedy in the modern era.”

- Mr. Dani Dayan, Chairman of Yad Vashem -
Road yet fragile, Israel’s new government has held together since taking office in June and is faring better than many expected. Forged around a rotation agreement between Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, the ruling coalition consists of eight diverse Israeli parties united by their common quest to keep former premier Benjamin Netanyahu from returning to power.

With so many competing agendas among its razor-thin 61 Knesset members, many wondered whether the new government could survive, much less accomplish anything. But so far, the Bennett-Lapid alignment looks to be on a stable course for the foreseeable future.

Bennett and Lapid represent a younger generation of Israeli leaders who are generally forward-looking and willing to make compromises to promote the welfare of the entire nation. They came in facing numerous challenges at home and abroad – the most immediate being the prolonged coronavirus pandemic.

As the coalition assumed office, many Israelis felt they were about to beat COVID-19 through an aggressive mass vaccination program. But then the more contagious Delta variant slipped into the country and produced a fourth wave of infections over the summer which stressed the national health system once more.

With his hi-tech background, PM Bennett listened to the medical experts, but opted to do everything possible to keep the country and economy open. Rather than strict lockdowns like under Netanyahu, he has largely relied on Israeli citizens to voluntarily follow the health rules and isolate when exposed. At the same time, the new government has continued its strict approach to foreigners entering the country, which means the tourism industry will need more time to recover.

Meanwhile, the Knesset will soon vote on passage of an annual state budget, which previous governments failed to secure over the past three years. And although it appears the budget will pass, there are numerous and often petty disputes among the coalition partners that could easily derail the process, which might trigger the dreaded prospects of yet another election. One serious dispute is over whether Palestinians can marry Israeli Arabs and gain Israeli citizenship. The Arab parties favour such a measure, but many on the right oppose it as a back-door ‘right of return.’

The proposed budget includes investments in the Arab sector to reduce the spiralling rates of inter-Arab crime and violence, and to deal with the root causes of the shocking Arab-Jewish street brawls which broke out during the Hamas rocket war last May.

On the international front, maintaining warm relations with the United States is always a top priority for any Israeli government, and PM Bennett sought to reaffirm the alliance when he flew to Washington in August for his first meeting with US President Joe Biden. The outcome was thrown in doubt, however, when Biden postponed their meeting to deal with his government’s tumultuous exit from Afghanistan. Still, Bennett received passing marks back home for his handling of the crisis moment – largely by remaining silent on the chaotic American withdrawal.

Bennett sought to focus Washington’s attention on the growing Iranian nuclear threat, while also rebuffing any push by the Biden administration for renewed peace talks with the Palestinians on a two-state solution, arguing such a move could easily fracture his coalition.

The Israeli government also is facing US pressure to curb Chinese investment in its infrastructure projects and hi-tech sector, which could give Beijing too much leverage over Israeli policies and access to sensitive Western technologies.

To deal with such issues, the Bennett-Lapid coalition is intent on rebuilding the traditional bipartisan base of support for Israel among Democrats and Republicans in Washington,
which may prove tough as next year’s US midterm elections approach. The new government also wants to be proactive in repairing Israel-Diaspora relations, especially among American Jewish leaders who have felt slighted by Israel’s favouring the ultra-Orthodox over the Conservative and Reform movements. With the haredi parties out of government, Bennett and the national religious camp have a chance to bring some needed balance to certain state-synagogue issues, such as allowing civil marriages and non-Orthodox conversions, which would appease many Israelis as well as American Jews.

In addition, the battle against the BDS campaign is a key focus of the new government’s diplomatic and hasbara efforts, as seen in the on-going tussle with Ben & Jerry’s ice cream execs over their garbled and discriminatory boycott of Israeli settlements.

Above all, the Bennett-Lapid government is faced with a momentous decision on how to confront Iran as it closes in on the nuclear threshold (see side bar on Iran).

Finally, keep in mind that if the opposition Likud party were to replace Netanyahu as chairman, Bennett would come under immediate pressure to renegotiate his rotation deal with Lapid and move to form a majority right-wing government with Likud.

Israel at a Crossroads on Iran

BY DAVID PARSONS

Israeli leaders first learned of Iran’s nuclear program in 1992, and every prime minister since has responded to this threat by expressing loyalty to the ‘Begin Doctrine’ – the policy first set by Menachem Begin that Israel will not allow a hostile state in the region to acquire weapons of mass destruction. But due to recent distractions (coronavirus, repeat elections), Israel may have fallen behind in its readiness to deal a lethal blow to Iran’s renegade nuclear program. Some here even insist its nuclear threshold is already too late for Israel to handle this threat on its own. Whether true or not, the new Bennett-Lapid government is clearly at a crossroads concerning Iran’s nuclear ambitions.

Over recent decades, Israel has been able to slow Iran’s nuclear progress, but Tehran has been determined to forge ahead. The ayatollahs learned the lessons of Israel’s pre-emptive strikes on Iraq’s atomic reactor in 1982 and Syria’s reactor in 2007. Thus, they have taken much of their nuclear infrastructure deep underground to shield it from Israeli airstrikes. And they have built up a strong deterrence by delivering tens of thousands of rockets to proxy militias in Gaza and Lebanon.

In response, Israeli leaders focused on securing international sanctions to impede Iran’s progress towards the Bomb, while also carrying out a series of largely successful covert operations against Iran’s nuclear facilities and experts. The Western powers finally tightened sanctions on Tehran, which forced the Islamic regime to the negotiating table, but then those talks ended in 2015 with a weak JCPOA agreement due to the Obama administration’s strangely lenient approach to Iran.

When US President Donald Trump later abandoned the JCPOA, for good reasons, the Iranians used it as an excuse to cross several red lines. In recent months, the International Atomic Energy Agency revealed that Iran is enriching uranium up to 60% purity, just short of weapons-grade levels, and is forging uranium metal, a key part of an atomic warhead. Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz also recently warned that Iran is only two months away from developing a nuclear device should it decide to make one.

Now comes the assessment of former prime minister Ehud Barak, published in Yediot Ahronot, that just as Iran is approaching the nuclear threshold, Israeli leaders have been distracted by the coronavirus crisis and two years of stalemated elections, leaving little in the budget to help the IDF keep its plans current for attacking Iran. He may have been referring here to Israel’s shortage of jumbo bunker-busters and top-flight refueling planes.

Israel’s only option now, Barak contends, is to rely on the US to deliver Israel from this existential threat. He added that Washington does not have any military plans at present to strike Iran, and likely will not develop any under the Biden administration.

Only time will tell if Barak’s dour assessment is right. Some suggest the Israeli military is still prepared for a long-range strike on Iran’s nuclear assets, especially with its new squadrons of advanced F-35 stealth aircraft. Others contend the budget shortfalls can be made up quickly, giving the IDF time to update its equipment and contingency plans.

In any case, Iran could soon cross the nuclear threshold, closing the window for Israel to carry out pre-emptive strikes in keeping with the Begin Doctrine. Let us all pray that Israel’s leaders, intelligence agencies, military branches, and civilian front will all be up to the task should that moment of decision come.
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem held a successful celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles from 20-27 September as largely an online event, featuring eight days of broadcasts from Jerusalem and other exciting locations around Israel. The daily broadcasts on Christian TV networks, the streaming to registered viewers, and the numerous Feast watch parties held worldwide all reached a global television and online audience of tens of thousands of Christians in over 100 nations, and weeks later we are still receiving reports and testimonies of how the Feast blessed many around the globe.

Due to the global impact of coronavirus, the ICEJ’s Feast gathering went online again this year, taking our viewers on a special week-long Succot journey through the Land of Israel. There were daily broadcasts from Jerusalem, including the Southern Steps, Garden Tomb, Succat Hallel, and our host sukaḥ at TBN studios overlooking the Old City, plus programs from the Sea of Galilee, Qumran and Mount Carmel.

The daily celebrations featured anointed speakers and worship artists from Israel and abroad, as well as interviews with interesting guests on biblical topics and current affairs. Those who registered to access the new Feast streaming platform also were able to enjoy over 125 seminar teachings in several languages, visit online with Israeli exhibitors, and also take part in our 24/7 prayer vigil during the eight days of Tabernacles.

One notable aspect of this year’s Feast was the way senior Israeli officials, including an unprecedented five cabinet ministers in the new Bennett-Lapid government, used our Succot gathering to reach out to Christian supporters worldwide with a message of gratitude for their unwavering solidarity with the Jewish state and people. The Israeli leaders who addressed the Feast audience this year included President Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, Defense Minister Benny Gantz, Tourism Minister Yoel Razvozov, and Yad Vashem’s new chairman Dani Dayan.

“Our Christian friends and supporters around the world so much wanted to come to Jerusalem this year to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with the Jewish people, but we produced instead a rich and colourful array of daily broadcasts from Israel out to the Christian world,” said ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler.

“We were especially excited about the new Israeli government’s outreach to the Christian world through our Feast,” added Bühler. “We have never had so many senior Israeli cabinet ministers address the Feast as was the case this year, and it shows the Bennett-Lapid government indeed understands and values the importance of Christian support for the Jewish state. We also were most grateful for the warm holiday greetings from new Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who has actively engaged with pro-Israel Christians throughout his public career.”

The Feast was held under the theme “Days of Elijah” this year. Just as Elijah’s time was one of the most challenging periods in Israel’s history, as a heaven-sent drought gripped the land for three years and tested Israel’s spiritual standing, we also live in times of extreme uncertainty, when a clear prophetic voice is needed to turn the hearts of the people back to God (Malachi 4:5-6; Luke 1:17). Amid the corona pandemic, our Feast messages aimed to give the global Body of Christ a fresh prophetic orientation for our times.

While Feast week has ended, there is still time to register for one of our enhanced Feast packages or to upgrade your basic package to give you online access to all the Feast content until the end of June 2022. 

REGISTER TODAY AT: on.icej.org/FOT2021
One amazing development at this year’s Feast was the way hundreds of churches, ministries, prayer groups, Bible study groups and ordinary families held Feast watch parties around the globe, with many also building colourful succahs (booths) and inviting guests to come share in a fuller Feast experience. The succahs and watch party sites were beautifully decorated, and thousands of Christians around the globe were able to join us in this way. At many of these Feast watch parties, the hosts not only streamed the eight daily Feast programs from Israel, but also included a time for local worship teams and speakers to minister, while others screened some of the seminar teachings for their guests. These watch parties also collected Feast offerings to bless Israel through the work of the Christian Embassy.

In Canada, for example, the ICEJ’s national branch organised numerous Feast watch parties from coast-to-coast. In one city, Jude Hodgson of the ICEJ-Canada team hosted a Feast watch party at a homeless shelter where she volunteers. She said it was remarkable how those served by the shelter kept coming back day after day to watch the Feast programs from Israel. As the crowd continued to faithfully come and even grow each day, they became more open to prayer and ministry over their lives.
For the eight days of this year’s Feast of Tabernacles, we broadcast two-hour daily programs which were translated into a dozen languages and then made available as videos-on-demand on our Feast streaming platform.

**SUCCOT JOURNEY THROUGH THE LAND OF ISRAEL**

The Feast opened with the traditional ‘Roll-Call of the Nations’, this year coming from the Southern Steps leading up to the ancient Hulda gates and the Temple courts beyond. Local Arab and Jewish pastors joined us in praying for the nations on all continents, in line with the ancient priestly tradition of offering sacrifices for the nations at Succot.

**DAY 1**
**SOUTHERN STEPS OF THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM**

The second day of the Feast came from a Jesus Boat on the Sea of Galilee near Capernaum, often called “the Hometown of Jesus’. Local Arab and Jewish believers shared about living in this special location and how the Lord is moving in the Galilee region today.

**DAY 2**
**CAPERNAUM AND THE SEA OF GALILEE**

The third day took us to Qumran and the ruins of the Essene community where the Dead Sea Scrolls were first discovered in 1947. Besides powerful messages from Malcolm Hedding and Lou Engle about the days of Elijah and John the Baptist, we spoke with an archaeologist about the impact which these ancient Scrolls have had in validating the accuracy of the Bible.

**DAY 3**
**QUMRAN**

The ICEJ hosted the traditional Communion Service during the Feast once more amid the lovely, peaceful setting of the Garden Tomb, where some believe Jesus was crucified, buried and rose from the grave. The program featured a message from local minister Wayne Hilsden, and Communion served by local Messianic and Arab pastors.

**DAY 4**
**GARDEN TOMB IN JERUSALEM**
DAY 5
SUCCAT HALLEL
IN JERUSALEM

A special Feast prayer gathering was held on day five at the Succat Hallel worship and prayer center, which is run by Rick and Patricia Ridings and has a spectacular view of the Temple Mount. There was a powerful presence of God in the time of worship and praying for Israel and the nations.

DAY 6
SUCCAH AT TBN STUDIOS
IN JERUSALEM

Day six of the Feast was broadcast from our beautiful sucah at the TBN studios overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem, and focused on ‘The City of the Great King’. We heard from local Jerusalem community leaders and musicians, as well as the President of Honduras, Juan Orlando Hernández, speaking on his decision to move his country’s embassy to Jerusalem earlier this year.

DAY 7
SUCCAH AT TBN STUDIOS
IN JERUSALEM

The seventh day of the Feast again came from the ICEJ’s host sucah at the TBN studios and featured Jewish and Arab speakers discussing the prophetic ‘Isaiah 19 Highway’. Local Arab Pastor Dr. Naim Khory brought a particularly strong message, author Joel Rosenberg gave us the latest on the Abraham Accords, and the worship sessions led by local artists Shiloh Ben Hod, Nizar Francis and Joshua Aaron had a sweet anointing.

DAY 8
KEHILAT HACARMEL
ON MOUNT CARMEL

The eight day Succat journey ended with a special celebration in the Carmel Assembly, on Mount Carmel near Haifa, with host pastors Peter Tsukahira and Daniel Sayag, as we focused on ‘Rebuilding the Altar of God’. Mt. Carmel is where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal, built an altar to the Lord, prayed, and saw miraculous fire fall from heaven to consume the sacrifice, turning the hearts of the people of Israel back to God. We ended the Feast on Mt. Carmel by praying for the same power and spirit of Elijah to come upon the Body of Christ today, especially on the younger generation.

Watch our Feast Behind the Scenes videos on our official YouTube channel at: on.icej.org/behindthescenes
This year’s Feast of Tabernacles was notable for the way an unprecedented number of senior Israeli officials turned to the ICEJ’s annual gathering to send a message of gratitude to Christian supporters worldwide for their unwavering solidarity with the Jewish state. Here are excerpts from some of those video greetings:

**ISRAELI PRESIDENT ISAAC HERZOG**

I’m so pleased to greet our cherished friends from the Christian Embassy, with whom I’ve had the pleasure of partnering for so many years, especially in this Feast of hope. As Minister of Tourism at the time, I saw the impact of Christian tourism on Israel and its relations with the world. As Minister of Welfare, I witnessed the selfless service of Christian volunteers in support of Israelis in need. As Chairman of The Jewish Agency... I watched in awe as the Christian Embassy stood by Israel without reservation, supported Aliyah of Jewish people from all around the world, and spread the good name of Israel amongst the nations... Today, as President of the State of Israel, I thank you all for your unwavering continued friendship.

**ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER NAFTALI BENNETT**

The International Christian Embassy here in Jerusalem has for so many years been a center of pro-Israel activism by our many Christian friends in the Holy Land and around the world. Your love for Israel is legendary. Your passion for Israel is an uncompromising statement of support for the Jewish State, for its people, and for our destiny. In ninety countries around the world, the Embassy has encouraged an unwavering dedication to Israel.

**ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER YAIR LAPID**

It is time to give thanks for friendship, for the millions of Christian supporters of Israel who stand with us in good times and bad; to you who fight antisemitism wherever and whenever it raises its ugly head, who stand proudly shoulder-to-shoulder with the Jewish people.

**ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER BENNY GANTZ**

We face challenges on all fronts: on land, in the sea, in the air, and in cyberspace... In facing these challenges, the support of the Christian Zionist community is critical. I would like to thank you for your steadfast support for the security and prosperity of the State of Israel.

The ICEJ’s music video ‘Bitfilah Amen’ is available for viewing on our official YouTube channel at: on.icej.org/bitfilah

All the video greetings from Israeli officials are available on the ICEJ’s official YouTube channel at: on.icej.org/diplomaticgreetings
VIRTUAL PILGRIMS FLOCK TO 24/7 PRAYER SUCCAH

One of the most important and popular features of this year’s Feast of Tabernacles was the prayer component. We hosted an eight-day Succot prayer vigil online, with our branch offices teaming up with churches, prayer groups, worship leaders and many others from over 70 nations to carry the prayer chain for 168 continuous hours – from 20 to 27 September. In response, we are receiving many powerful testimonies of God moving in mighty ways throughout the world.

Some of the groups in the 24/7 Prayer Succah wore their traditional national costumes, as if they were in Jerusalem to “appear before the Lord in Zion.” Others joined from such places as Egypt, Iraq, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan – including some nations that had never joined an ICEJ event before.

Another powerful prayer event was the daily Feast program from “Succat Hallel”, a 24/7 worship center in Jerusalem overlooking the Old City which was founded by Rick and Patty Ridings some 20 years ago. The presence of God came as we joined with our hosts in worship and in praying for Israel and the nations. We also prayed over many personal prayer requests which had come in during the Feast. We are hearing testimonies of God healing and delivering during this time of intercession.

ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler spoke a word that someone was considering to file for divorce that very day, but God wanted to turn things around in their marriage. Sure enough, we heard from a dear lady in China who was ready to divorce her husband that day but came under conviction to hold off and allow the Lord time to mend their broken relationship.

During the prayer gathering, we also heard inspiring testimonies from some of our national leaders about how God is moving in their countries. For instance, praying believers in Chile recently saw God miraculously turn around a national elections at the last minute when a very leftist leader surprisingly lost to a conservative candidate with a more godly agenda and a heart for Israel.

Our ICEJ national director in Bolivia, Apostle Antonio Magno Sales, shared how he was faithful to bless Israel during last year’s online Feast, and ever since then he has added 3,000 newly saved members to his church, despite the long coronavirus lockdowns. He is convinced that bringing his following into the virtual Feast is ensuring spiritual rains of revival in his country.

We also received a wonderful testimony with video footage from the Philippines of repentance and revival among the youth from several churches gathered to watch the Feast at the Mount Moriah Prayer Mountain. While praise was taking place inside, several regional pastors were outside planning the rest of the evening. Then suddenly, everything went silent inside and as they entered they found the youth laying on the floor under the power of the Holy Spirit and confessing sins. Several were delivered of unhealthy addictions, and the entire crowd came under an unmistakable presence of God.


Let us know how the Lord touched you through this year’s Feast. Write us at prayer@icej.org

TESTIMONIES FROM THE FEAST

From the very first day of the Feast, we have been receiving praise reports of God moving in the lives of believers worldwide. Here are just a few:

A VIEWER FROM ZIMBABWE
“What an amazing Feast! I felt I had been to Israel. My Spirit felt so nourished... Really it was very special.”

A SISTER FROM CANADA
“The virtual Feast was a refreshing time and our faith is renewed. It is so amazing and wonderful watching the young generation – Shilo, Joshua and Nazir – doing the praise and worship. We felt the power of the Holy Spirit seeing the fulfilment of the prophecy on the ‘One New Man.'”

A VIEWER FROM AFRICA
“As a first timer to such an excellent event, this was historic, groundbreaking and exceptionally classic... I believe God had me in mind... He became more and more real, true and tangible to my heart.”

A BELIEVER IN FIJI
“I was so blessed to be part of the virtual Feast and the feedback I received from other church members was positive. They thoroughly enjoyed the eight days of Feast. Such powerful sermons and anointed praise & worship.”
One positive aspect of an online Feast has undoubtedly been its global reach. People watched the daily programs and celebrated Succot in their homes and congregations all around the world. For many, providing translation into their native language was essential.

Our language teams worked steadily for months to translate and put subtitles on dozens of seminar messages. We also organised a team of more than fifty volunteers who translated simultaneously all eight daily programs into twelve languages.

For those who have never seen this type of work, I would like to explain what it means. An interpreter normally sits in a booth, headset on, listening to the speaker and speaking at the same time in another language. It requires such extreme concentration that translators need to take turns every half-hour or so. Technology makes it possible today to do simultaneous translation remotely, meaning the interpreter can be anywhere in the world, connected through a special software.

This is exactly what we did for the Feast. It was amazing to see people joining at the same time from Argentina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Thailand and Ukraine all being managed from Jerusalem and monitored by our digital manager in Texas – and everything worked!

It was a great joy and privilege to work with this group of highly skilled and committed professionals during the Feast. May the Lord bless them!
ICEJ CALENDAR: ISRAEL
FROM DAN TO BEERSHEBA 2022

From flowing rivers and snow-capped mountain tops to arid desert and the lowest place on earth, the ICEJ’s 2022 calendar takes you on a tour from Dan to Beersheba featuring 12 beautiful images to make you want to visit Israel! The calendar includes: Inspirational scriptures; Jewish and Christian holidays; Torah portions; Haftarah; ICEJ Isaiah 62 Global Prayer dates and ICEJ special events in Jerusalem, as well as space to write your own events. Be sure to get yours today!
Parenting is a blessing; however, it also comes with challenges best shouldered by two. Unfortunately, in Israel today, 12.8% of families (about 170,000 in all) are single parent households and a staggering 90% of these are headed by women with a lower earning capacity than men. This means many single parent families face a constant battle of living on or below the poverty line.

The corona crisis has exposed just how vulnerable single mothers truly are, and suitable assistance is not always available for them. In Hebrew it is said, “they fall between the chairs” ... which is why we are focused on strengthening these families.

Some started out as young mothers with no opportunity to study and learn a profession. Often, they lack support or a good family example, and many even need to overcome trauma or destructive family patterns. In many ways they were still children themselves, and thus need encouragement and guidance to raise their own children.

Or, what if a mother decided to take a gigantic leap of faith and move to a new country with a vastly different language and culture? The challenges of adjusting to a new setting, learning the language, finding employment, or deciding on a school for the children – all without a ready support system – adds a whole new level of stress to single parenting.

At the ICEJ, we have been asking: How can we be a type of “extended” family for struggling young Israeli mothers and their children? The answer is by providing the basics, such as assistance towards career counselling and job training, or sponsoring professional mentors who give the practical and emotional support that can build self-confidence.

Many also require help with subsidized daycare, babysitters, afterschool activities, private tutors for the children, and other essentials like basic home furnishings and repairs. Being ashamed of your living conditions only adds to the single mother’s feelings of isolation and despair. So, ICEJ donors recently enabled one such mother to have a brand new kitchen. The before and after images are stunning, and now she and her children have their dignity restored.

Can you imagine having to wash for years using water from a toilet tank? This is how an elderly grandmother, her single-parent daughter and grandson had to bathe, as they had no running water to shower. For four years, they diverted water from the toilet tank and crouched in the bathtub to wash, which was extremely difficult for the grandmother to do. Your giving enabled a repair team to renovate the bathroom, restore the water connection, and install an easily accessible shower!

“In general, the women assisted are between the ages of 16 to 50”, explained Nicole Yoder, ICEJ Vice President for Aid and Aliyah. “Many come from abusive backgrounds with no support system. Others are simply on their own due to divorce or early widowhood. They may lack education or basic life skills which make entering the workforce extremely challenging. Learning to parent is tough. Many young parents

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one’s youth.”

PSALM 127:3-4
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has recently ordered another thirty new portable bomb shelters to be delivered to Israeli border communities vulnerable to rocket fire from Gaza and Lebanon, with an increased focus on protecting civilians in the northern Galilee and Haifa regions. With these shelters, the ICEJ will have donated a total of 155 portable bomb shelters to Israeli communities under rocket threat, with 129 placed in towns along the Gaza periphery and the remaining 26 in the North.

Over the past decade, the western Negev has received most of the attention from government and private sources seeking to better protect Israeli civilians from frequent rocket barrages. However, the need for more bomb shelters in the North has become an increasing concern, especially due to Lebanon’s growing economic crisis and Hizbullah’s massive arsenal of over 150,000 rockets. A State Comptroller report issued last year also warned that 2.6 million residents of northern Israel do not have access to functional bomb shelters.

Thus, the Christian Embassy is shifting its focus to assisting towns in the northern Galilee and Haifa regions. The need for shelters is most acute in the towns right along the Lebanese border, which are prone to shorter range rockets that cannot be stopped by the Iron Dome system. This hilly, forested area contains a diverse mosaic of Jewish, Arab and Druze towns which are desperately looking for funding to better protect their communities. So, over the past year the ICEJ already has delivered portable shelters to several towns along the northern border.

We also have started placing shelters in another area of concern – the Jewish and Arab farming villages in the Zevulun regional council just east of Haifa. These towns are close to oil storage tanks and chemical plants near Haifa Bay which Hizbullah will likely target in any future conflict. In the coming months, we plan to deliver new shelters to public places in this area, as well as in Haifa, Akko, Nahariya, Kfar Maccabi and elsewhere – all in consultation with local security chiefs.

Most of the donations for these latest bomb shelters have come from Christians in Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Fiji, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and United States.

Please consider a generous gift towards the ICEJ’s efforts to better protect Israelis living under the constant threat of rocket attack from Hamas and Hizbullah. You may do so by giving through our ‘Israel in Crisis’ fund.

ICEJ PASSES A 150 BOMB SHELTER LANDMARK WITH A NEW ORDER OF 30 FOR ISRAELI BORDER TOWNS

Focus of security assistance shifting to rocket threat in North

BY DAVID PARSONS

donate today at: on.icej.org/crisis
In early fall, we were thrilled to welcome Dinna, Birgit and Christine, who are three of the five new Christian volunteers coming to serve at the ICEJ’s Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa. We now have two nurses and a physiotherapist serving the precious Holocaust survivors, and the two remaining volunteers will join us soon. They are replacing our previous volunteer team whose time here ended last summer.

Dinna was born in Kyrgyzstan but raised in Germany, and her language skills in German and Russian are a great tool in her daily work. To hear about the Haifa Home is quite different than seeing it on the ground, and after being here now for several weeks, Dinna is pleasantly surprised as she makes her rounds and gets to know the residents.

“What a nice project!” she exclaimed. “The residents have their own apartment and yet are not alone, but have a community of fellow residents and staff that do everything they can to make everyday life easier... God is pausing my life in Germany so that I can serve these Holocaust survivors here in Israel.”

Birgit was born in Germany but came to us from Switzerland. She is a well-educated and experienced physiotherapist, having worked in different countries and cultures, and she immediately put her expertise into practice.

“It’s a privilege to work with people who survived the Holocaust, especially as a German and in the Land of Israel”, noted Birgit. “I am impressed and touched by the warm welcome I received from residents and staff alike. I am amazed how fast they embraced me...”

Mobility is very important for the elderly and besides her individual physiotherapy sessions, Birgit is leading three gymnastic groups.

“It’s a blessing for me to bring joy to the lives of these elderly survivors who suffered so much and to feel a heart connection”, added Birgit. “It is truly worth it, to leave everything behind...”

Christine was born in Kazakhstan and raised in Germany. She brings her talents as a nurse and educator to caring for the aging residents, many over 90 years old.

“I love to work with the elderly, to make their life easier. I also desire to show God’s love for them through my work”, explained Christine. “I was very impressed with how they are very happy that we are here. This was very surprising for me.”

As we look ahead, we are filled with expectation and excitement! With a new and bigger team, we are planning more ways to improve the quality of life for the residents. We are renovating the two community activity rooms where many events currently take place, so that they are more welcoming. We also are planning more fun and enriching activities for the residents.

In addition, the permit to install an elevator in the ICEJ’s newest apartment building at the Haifa Home has been approved. This means by early next year, we can place more survivors in the six new housing units.

Finally, in November we will open a new branch of the national Call Center for Holocaust Survivors in Jerusalem. This facility will expand our efforts to reach out and help more Holocaust survivors across Israel in their final years.

It is a great privilege to care for these precious Holocaust survivors and we are grateful for the support of all the wonderful donors who help make this possible. Your continued support of the Haifa Home community ensures these survivors will enjoy a good quality of life in their remaining years.

Please give at: on.icej.org/survivors
At our Haifa Home for Holocaust survivors, celebrating the Jewish High Holy Day together in September was extremely special, as last year all the residents were isolated during a strict coronavirus lockdown period over the holiday season.

The Haifa Home residents began the holiday season by celebrating Rosh Hashanah in the community dining hall, which was filled with much chatter and laughter as a special meal was served at tables beautifully decorated with flowers and pomegranates.

For Yom Kippur, the Home’s dining room was turned into a synagogue and many of the residents came for the five prayer services held that day.

For the Feast of Tabernacles, a community Succah was built outside the Home and residents appreciated each other’s company while sitting in the decorated booth.

The residents also enjoyed with singing and dancing the Simchat Torah holiday, which rejoices in the giving of the Torah (Five Books of Moses).

Meantime, the Haifa Home also celebrated the birthday of Genia, a Holocaust survivor who just turned 98-year-old!

Your support for ICEJ Homecare brings joy and comfort to many like Zachar. Thank you for partnering with us.

LEARN MORE AT: icej.org/homecare
In October, Israel marked its official ‘Aliyah Day’ with a special week of flights bringing Jewish people home to the Promised Land from all directions, and the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem joined in the festivities by assisting over 170 Jewish immigrants to reach their ancestral homeland. This included sponsoring Aliyah flights for 105 SELA students from the former Soviet republics who came ahead of their parents to study in Israel. In addition, the ICEJ funded flights for 50 Bnei Menashe who were part of a larger group of this ancient Israelite community arriving from India.

In 2016, the Knesset established an annual ‘Aliyah Day’ to celebrate the Jewish return to their ancient homeland in modern times. This year, Aliyah Day included a whole ‘Aliyah Week’ of flights bringing hundreds of immigrants from around the globe. The ICEJ took part in the special initiative of The Jewish Agency For Israel by sponsoring flights for 105 SELA students from Russian-speaking countries over a ten-day period. These are Jewish youths who have completed high school, taken part in special pre-Aliyah programs, and now will settle in Israel, learn Hebrew, and attend university in anticipation of the rest of their families making Aliyah later.

The ICEJ also funded bus transportation, summer camps, documentation efforts and other pre-Aliyah preparation costs for another group of 22 SELA students from Belarus who came in mid-October.

All these participants in the SELA program offered by JAFI are the best and brightest Jewish students and they will surely make many positive contributions to the nation of Israel in the years ahead. The Christian Embassy has financially supported many of these SELA students over recent years since they started participating in Aliyah summer camps at the age of 10. So, it is a joy to see them finally arrive in Israel after all these years of preparation and hope!

In addition, the Christian Embassy sponsored the flights of 50 members of the group of
275 Bnei Menashe who immigrated to Israel from India in October. Our assistance allowed these members of the ancient Israelite tribe of Manasseh to realise the dreams of many generations to finally return to the Land of Israel.

With these latest arrivals, the ICEJ has now sponsored Aliyah flights for 1,468 Jewish immigrants from more than a dozen countries so far in 2021, despite the constraints and challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. When we include all those we have supported with pre-Aliyah and post-landing assistance, the Christian Embassy has helped to bring well over 3,000 Jews to Israel this year, thanks to the faithful giving of our Christian donors.

“It was exciting to be engaged in supporting the return of over 170 Jewish immigrants during this special occasion of ‘Aliyah Day’, when Israel celebrates the great Ingathering of the Jewish people in modern times,” said ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler. “Thankfully, there are many Christians around the world today who gladly rejoice with Israel in their miraculous return to their ancient homeland, and we are especially grateful for those Christians who have shown their support by giving towards our recent Aliyah flights.”

It is interesting to note that Israel’s annual “Aliyah Day” was set by the Knesset to fall on the seventh day of the Hebrew month of Heshvan, which ties it to the weekly Torah portion of ‘Lech Lecha,’ where God commanded Abraham in Genesis 12:1 to “get thee up” from his own country and go to the Land of Israel. He thus is considered the first oleh (newcomer in Hebrew) to the Land, and Aliyah today is seen as an act of obedience, or mitzvah, to that same divine command to ‘arise and go’. Interestingly, this same passage also contains God’s promise to “bless those who bless” Abraham. Thus, there is surely a special blessing for those who help Abraham’s natural descendants to also arise and journey home to the Land of Israel today.

Your donation towards the ICEJ’s many Aliyah efforts will be used to continue bringing more Jewish families home in the coming weeks and months. We are on pace to bring over 1,700 Jewish immigrants on Aliyah flights to Israel this year, including help with a large group of Ethiopian Jews expected to arrive by December.

So please give your best gift today, and expect a great blessing from God in return.

DONATE AT:
on.icej.org/aliyah
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Join us next year in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. We will keep you updated with all of the plans!
on.icej.org/2022fot