THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS
Israel’s breakthrough with the Arab world
Dear friends,

As part of this year’s Feast of Tabernacles, we just celebrated 40 years since the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was founded in September 1980. For four decades now, we have witnessed up-close the faithfulness of God in gathering the Jewish people and restoring them as a nation. Today, the relationship between Israel and her Evangelical supporters is so much closer and more dynamic than back in 1980. And we are humbled and privileged that God has used the Christian Embassy over the years to help advance and even accelerate this transformation.

Forty years is a significant period in Scripture, as it often marks the beginning of a new era for the people of God. And we indeed sense that God is leading us into a new season of ministry ahead.

This was evident even with this year’s Feast of Tabernacles, as we initially expected our 40th anniversary to be celebrated with a record crowd coming up to Jerusalem for Sukkot. However, they were not allowed into Israel for obvious health reasons, and instead we moved the Feast online. And despite the many challenges involved, the online Global Feast 2020 featured more content – with more speakers, worship leaders and seminar messages – than ever before. The Feast also was viewed by more people worldwide than ever.

If you were not able to join us, please consider one of the Feast packages which are still available for the next twelve months. Details are inside.

Meanwhile, the ICEJ is overcoming many other challenges brought on by the current pandemic, as we even have been able to increase our social outreach and Aliyah programs in this uniquely difficult time. God is faithful, and so are our Christian supporters in their love and concern for Israel!

The nation of Israel is going through an exciting new period as well, especially with the recent breakthrough in diplomatic relations with several regional Arab states. You can read more about these developments in this issue of the Word From Jerusalem.

The news also just broke that the Israeli government plans to bring another 2,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel by the end of this year. Ever since Israel approved the resumption of Ethiopian Aliyah in 2015, the ICEJ has been sponsoring their flights to Israel. Over these past five years, the Christian Embassy has funded Aliyah flights for over 2,200 Ethiopian olim, including 268 this year – despite the Corona travel bans. And we have committed to Ethiopian Jews to Israel by the end of this year. Ever since Israel approved the resumption of Ethiopian Aliyah in 2015, the ICEJ has been sponsoring their flights to Israel. Over these past five years, the Christian Embassy has funded Aliyah flights for over 2,200 Ethiopian olim, including 268 this year – despite the Corona travel bans. And we have committed to

Over the past forty years, both the nation of Israel and our own ministry have been blessed and sustained by God’s favour and provision. I invite you to continue to walk this faith journey with us, as together we press onward into a new and exciting season of prophetic promise and fulfillment for Israel and her Christian friends.

Many blessings from Jerusalem!

Dr Jürgen Bühler
President
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

COVER PHOTO: UAE officials wave farewell as an historic EL AL flight carrying an Israeli delegation departs Abu Dhabi in early September (Ynet).

FOR MAGAZINE ARCHIVES
visit www.icej.org/media/word-jerusalem
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Standing recently at the River Jordan made me think again of the great moments which have happened there, especially how Joshua led a whole nation into a new destiny. In fact, the story of Joshua and the Israelites conquering the Promised Land has occupied my thoughts often over recent years.

After forty years of Israel wandering the desert, they finally reached their destination, the Land of Canaan. This represented a significant shift on many levels. Israel needed to change their thinking, attitude and behaviour. Once Israel passed over the River Jordan, a new approach was needed. What had worked in the wilderness was no longer good enough in this new territory. It is a lesson for all of us today.

Joshua’s ascent to leadership marked a dramatic shift for Israel, a transition from nomadic desert tribes into a victorious nation conquering the Land of Canaan. This transition was miraculous and brought upon them by God. The day the people of Israel crossed over the Jordan, they celebrated their very first Passover in the Promised Land. While Jericho was not yet taken, they celebrated Pesach with the produce growing in the Land of Israel. Suddenly something happened they might not have expected. The blessing of manna, the bread of angels, no longer appeared.

“Then the manna ceased on the day after they had eaten the produce of the land; and the children of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate the food of the land of Canaan that year.” (Joshua 5:12)

In many ways this change was long expected, as the daily diet now became far more diverse. But the big change was that Israel now needed to sow and gather and work the land. Seedtime and harvest now required a new approach of labouring in the fields and orchards to bring in the annual crops.

It also marked a radical change in their military strategy. From a nation that only defended itself against attackers in the wilderness, Israel now needed to go on the offensive and conquer new territory. From a nomadic life of following God through a barren wasteland, they now were asked to take fortified cities and settle down in their land allotments.
are periods when God might lead you and me through desert seasons, because these times often impact and change us more than times of blessing and plenty.

But it was never God’s purpose for the Israelites to spend their entire lifespan in the desert. It was rather a just judgement of God that an entire generation would wander in this place of unfruitfulness for four decades and perish in the wilderness.

Yes, it was a time of divine protection, provision and God’s faithfulness. Their clothes did not wear out (Deuteronomy 8:4), and there were no feeble or sick among them, the Bible says. God did faithfully provide for His people. But the desert was supposed to be only a brief transition period leading them to a greater destiny. Tragically, an entire generation never saw the Promised Land and missed out on what God had for them.

I believe today the same is true also for many people in the Church. All too often we are all too ready to settle for less than what God has intended for us. But like Joshua, God is calling us to cross the River Jordan into the promises and destiny He intends for the children of God.

Therefore, when Joshua led the people of Israel over the Jordan, he required them to keep their eyes on the ark of the covenant and follow its lead—because “the way by which you must go... you have not passed this way before” (Joshua 3:4b). A new way and new experiences were waiting for them. Thus, Israel needed a new mindset of faith and expectation. In some ways they needed a new theology, because they found themselves in a totally different paradigm of salvation history than their fathers.

During their forty years in the wilderness, Israel lived on ‘deferred hope’. Many Christians today live in that same mode of deferred hope. They became content to live in a spiritual desert that was never truly intended for them as sons of God. It is true that Israel was destined for a period of desert wandering. Because of their unbelief, God did not allow them to rush right into the Promised Land, but led them by a longer route through the wilderness. This was an important part of their journey. And there

“BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS” - Joshua 1:6-9 -

This was a central quality which not only characterised Joshua, but all great men in the Bible and even in Church history. Revivals have come because men looked at the status quo, compared it with the Bible and realised the people of God were destined for more. That is why Martin Luther, John Knox, John Wesley and many others saw not only revival, but even impacted nations.

Joshua dared to step out in faith on the “way you have not gone before”. The prophet Isaiah encourages us to be ready for new things which God wants to do even in our time. “Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” (Isaiah 43:18-19; see also Isaiah 42:9, 48:6)

It means no matter how dry your situation might be, God encourages us to expect the new thing, even “streams in the desert!”

2.) FAITH AND COURAGE

When Moses commissioned his successor to take over, he repeatedly told Joshua to be “strong and courageous” (Joshua 1:6-9). Moses understood this was the main quality needed to enter and possess the Land. The Book of Hebrews affirms that it was an “evil heart of unbelief” (Hebrews 3:12) which caused them to not enter their rest in the land of promise. God is looking for a people who are not impressed with the giants in the world and the onslaught of evil. Rather, He looks for men and women who know there is nothing impossible with God, and who understand that if God is with us then who can be against us.

3.) A PEOPLE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Another essential quality in Joshua’s life was his total dependence on God’s word. He did not do things his way but God’s way. Again and again, the Book of Joshua records that he did all “according to the word that Moses commanded him” (Joshua 4:10; 8:30-31, 35; 10:40, etc). This was exactly what the Lord instructed him to do from the very beginning of Joshua’s calling, “Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:7)

The key for Joshua’s success was his obedience to the word of God; his being careful not to compromise – neither to the left nor the right. Make it your practice to spend time daily in God’s word. It is a key for your own success.

4.) EYES FIXED ON THE ARK

Just as Joshua commanded the ancient Israelites to keep their eyes on the ark of the covenant carried on the priests’ shoulders, we also need to be a people who keep our eyes upon Jesus. He is the Great Shepherd we follow as he guides us. Here again, the word of God is essential. His word is a lamp unto our feet, and God has promised that His Spirit will lead us. A book
that has touched me tremendously is “The Practice of the Presence of God”, by a certain Brother Lawrence. A simple monk working in the kitchen of a European monastery, his advice was sought by leaders of his time because he indeed practiced living in God’s presence. He was a man of prayer. This season of the Coronavirus is a season which forces us all to walk in ways we have never passed before. We cannot afford to lose eyesight of Jesus!

5.) A PEOPLE OF BATTLE
The land of promise was not a paradise on earth, but a battlefield which needed to be conquered. It was not child’s play to take possession of the land, but God warned Israel several times that after they passed the Jordan, new challenges awaited which outstripped their capabilities. God declared through Moses that upon entering the land they would encounter “seven nations greater and mightier than you” (Deuteronomy 7:1). In Deuteronomy 9, this warning is even more explicit:

“Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said, ‘Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?’” (Deuteronomy 9:1-2).

It was this very same seemingly hopeless situation which the generation beforehand had faced and wound up wandering in the desert for forty years.

Today, God is looking for people like Joshua, and for the Caleb and Deborahs who are willing to take the battle to the gates of the enemy and possess what God has promised.

A SEASON OF OPPORTUNITY
Today God is leading His people to the border of the Promised Land. It is a land which holds tremendous promise for us, yet at the same time it will take courage and faith to face the giants that are between us and our destiny.

I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THE CURRENT CORONA CRISIS IS PLACING MANY OF US ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER JORDAN

I truly believe that the current Corona crisis is placing many of us on the banks of the River Jordan, and God is inviting us into a new land of promise. He is inviting us to leave the place of mediocre Christianity characterised by weekly visits to church for two hours of upbeat music and motivational speaking which leave us feeling good but do not help us face our giants. All too often I hear these days: “I hope this Corona crisis will be over soon and we can go back to how it was before.” I honestly dare not go back to how it was before. Here at the ICEJ, during the past six months we have prayed more than ever before. We have seen God answering prayer and healing people from severe diseases. Every month more of our branches are committing to increased prayer for revival in Israel and in their nations. They have witnessed a new hunger filling their gatherings for more from God and for revival.

Entering the Promised Land means to develop a new passion and hunger for the promises God gave us in His word. We need a whole new level of determination to shake off the dust of our religiosity and declare to God, to ourselves and to the enemy that a new day is dawning, and that we are determined to enter into the promises of God. We need a fresh hunger for the Word of God and for His presence.

So what is the territory which the Lord has promised us? What is the destiny we should enter? It might look different for each one of us, as we all have different callings. But one of the territories the Bible invites us to conquer is our families. Joshua boldly prophesied over his own family: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15) As parents, and in particular as fathers, this should be our battle cry regarding our children and our children’s children.

For others, the battlefield might be demonic bondage and oppression of family members or loved ones. Let us remind ourselves that Jesus did not come to pacify the enemy camp but that he came to destroy the works of the devil. In Mark 16:17 and following, we find a description of the Promised Land which should be inherited by all who believe:

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:17-18)

Yet another battlefield are our cities and nations. We are living in times when our nations are in uproar, not only in the United States but in many countries around the world. It is a battle for the soul of our nations. Countries today are turning away from their godly and Christian heritage, and are drifting into a swamp of open immorality and sin. God is looking for a people who are willing to stand in the gap and are ready to take our nations back for God.

One of the messages that the Restoration of Israel teaches us today is that God is not only interested in the salvation of individuals but also that He cares for entire nations. “Ask of me,” God says, “and I will give you nations as an inheritance.” (Psalm 2:8) In one of our recent Global Prayer Gatherings, Suzette Hattingh said that it is our fatalistic prophetic expectation of the End Times which too often leaves us passive and complacent. How true that is! One of the core character traits which the Church needs is to be a source of hope. This hope never puts to shame. Let us hope and pray for our nations until Jesus returns.

Today, even as you read this, make a personal commitment to cross into your own personal Promised Land. Ask God to lead you into the new things He has for you and ask Him to carry out great exploits even in this difficult time of Corona. Remember that if God is with us, who can be against us!

Visit GOD.TV/VOD/ENCOUNTERISRAEL to watch “Encounter Israel” episodes on demand!
Just like the Oslo Accords three decades ago, the recent news of a peace deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates caught everyone by surprise. The region’s attention quickly pivoted away from the massive bomb blast in Beirut’s port to Israel’s sudden opening of relations with a Gulf Arab state and the potential impact it could have on the Middle East and beyond.

Many hailed the announced deal as a welcome return to the ‘peace for peace’ formula preferred by the Israeli Right, in that Israel was not being asked to concede anything to the UAE in exchange for normalising relations. Others cautioned there indeed was a quid quo pro, as reports surfaced that Israel had agreed to suspend annexation of settlement areas and to acquiesce to the US selling the latest F-35 stealth aircraft to the UAE.

Still, the so-called ‘Abraham Accords’ was a major coup. The Emirates became the third Arab state to break from the pack and open formal ties with Israel, and then Bahrain soon followed. Like Egypt and Jordan before them, the UAE and Bahrain decided not to let the future of their nations and the region be held hostage to the unyielding Palestinian nationalist cause. Given the current climate, several more Sunni Arab states could soon fall in line to forge peace agreements with Israel.

**BUT WHY DID THE UAE GO FIRST?**

To answer that, one only needs to look at a map. The UAE is located a mere 22 miles across the water from Iran and thus feels especially vulnerable to Tehran’s regional and nuclear ambitions. In light of this threat, they put in a request with the Pentagon six years ago to acquire the new F-35s, and making peace with Israel now significantly raises the odds of that being approved. Israel likely will not be able to block the sale, but they can expect to be compensated with other advanced American military hardware and technology to help maintain its qualitative edge over any potential adversaries in the region.

Secondly, the UAE’s rulers are forward-looking and want to diversify their national economy away from oil dependency and into hi-tech, which makes Israel a natural partner for them.

Thirdly, the Emirates have touted Dubai and Abu Dhabi as opulent hubs connecting East and West in the emerging global economy, and continuing to irrationally hate Israel does not mesh well with the futurist image it is trying to project.

Finally, the native citizens of the UAE comprise only 11% of the total population in their own country. The oil-rich nation has imported workers from over 200 countries, including large contingents from India and the Philippines, many of whom practice Christianity, Hinduism and other religions. So unlike most Arab/Muslim states, the Emirates have had to become very tolerant of other faiths. Thus there are many churches, and even several synagogues to serve the growing Jewish community in the UAE.

In fact, last year the UAE welcomed the Pope to Abu Dhabi, where he performed a large public mass for tens of thousands of local Catholic
Globalisation? Ecumenicism? Muslim Zionism? Some of this may give Christians pause. But the potential benefits of the deal for Israel are too good to ignore.

For starters, Israeli hi-tech companies now will be able to attract investments from not only rich Arab oil sheikhs, but also from the sovereign wealth fund of the UAE, estimated to be worth over $1 trillion dollars. And Israelis who can afford it now will be able to shop and dine in the luxurious malls and hotel complexes of Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

In addition, there were instant rumblings of diplomatic openings for Israel with several other Sunni Arab states. Bahrain was viewed as a prime candidate and soon enough it joined the UAE for an historic peace signing ceremony with Israel in Washington. Yet the small island kingdom has a delicate internal political equilibrium which could be tested in the months ahead. The ruling Sunni Arabs are a minority in their own country, facing bouts of unrest from a Shi'ite majority prone to Iranian influence. The royal family is hoping the peace deal with Israel does not stir trouble at home.

Finally, the Abraham Accords also could have a very positive knock-on effect for Israel throughout the rest of the world, as many nations will begin to question why they must boycott and remain hostile towards Israel if so many Arab countries are befriending the Jewish state.

Only President Trump would be able to continue the momentum of this breakthrough and spread it to other Arab capitals, because the Sunni Arab bloc has come to trust him when it comes to confronting Iran. His ‘maximum pressure’ policy has proven that Trump is serious about challenging the militant clerical regime in Tehran over its renegade quest for nuclear weapons and its export of terror, armaments and chaos throughout the region.

That is a huge departure from the policies of appeasement toward Iran adopted by the previous Obama administration, which included vice president Joe Biden. Under Obama-Biden, the Sunni Arab states felt abandoned. Now with Trump they have a sense of reassurance, even to the point of coming out openly about their warming relations with Israel.

A Trump re-election could have many other positive impacts for Israel. For some reason, Trump has not had the international coattails one would expect, since he actually is admired by many national leaders abroad. Yet some nations have cautiously held back on following his lead in moving their embassies to Jerusalem, or in recognising Israel’s sovereignty on the Golan. This is due in part to the widespread animosity towards him among the media and global elites, as well as concerns he may only be a one-term president.

But if Trump wins a second term, we could expect many other nations to finally give Jerusalem the respect it deserves and place their embassies in the city. They also may join him in recognising the Golan as Israeli territory, and even change their stance on the legality of the settlements in Judea/Samaria, as Trump did. Time will tell! 😊

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WHO MIGHT BE NEXT?

Following Israel’s recent breakthrough in relations with the United Arab Emirates, many were wondering which Arab states might be next to make peace with Israel. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo recently visited several likely candidates, including Oman, Bahrain and Morocco. The kingdom of Bahrain soon fell in line, adding another diplomatic trophy to help US President Donald Trump’s re-election effort, and there is reason to believe that more will be signing on to the Abraham Accords soon enough.

Oman seems the next surest bet among the Arab nations to join the peace camp with Israel. Oman’s rulers were the most vocal in their praise of the deals made by their Gulf neighbours. And it has hosted three sitting Israeli prime ministers over recent decades, going back to Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, and more recently Benjamin Netanyahu. They also have extensive trade relations and other interactions with Israel. But they are holding back for now, perhaps to see what the UAE gets out of their deal or whether Trump will get re-elected.

Saudi Arabia is starting to open up more to the world, and has developed quiet ties with Israel. But as guardians of Mecca as well as mainstream Sunni traditions, the ruling family will move slowly on both tracks. Yet glacial changes are taking place. The younger Saudi generations, as reflected by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, have access to the Internet and are more open to Western influences. They can now go see movies, while women are allowed to drive, travel without chaperones, and attend sporting events.

There are also signs of warming relations with Israel. For instance, Riyadh is now letting commercial airlines, including EL AL, to fly over Saudi territory on routes to and from Tel Aviv. But it will take time, and for the present the Saudis have said they are sticking with their 2002 Arab peace initiative, which requires a Palestinian state before normalisation with Israel.

Sudan also has signalled an interest in reconciling with Israel, but the nation is still in the midst of a fragile transition away from a radical Muslim dictatorship and anti-Israel elements remain in the provisional council. Further, the overtures to Israel appear to be almost exclusively motivated by a desire to reap rewards from Washington, including debt and sanctions relief. Still, it is a welcome change to see Sudan moving away from the Iran axis and no longer hosting radical Palestinian and Islamic terror militias on its soil.

Finally, Secretary Pompeo made a stop in Morocco in hopes of coaxing its monarchy to close a deal with Israel. Morocco was once home to a large Jewish community which contributed much to the country, and that heritage still enjoys some measure of respect there. Morocco has hosted Israeli leaders and shown less hostility towards Israel than most Arab League members. But it also has its share of Islamic rejectionists – like the current prime minister, a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. Some analysts also believe Rabat is conditioning peace with Israel on both Washington and Jerusalem recognising its disputed claim to the Western Sahara.

Meantime, it also must be factored in that Turkey, Iran and the Palestinians themselves are actively fomenting opposition to the Arab normalisation trend with Israel, trying to deter anyone else from concluding a peace accord with the Jewish state.

Progress towards peace between Israel and the Arab world is never easy. But the Trump team has managed an historic breakthrough with two more Arab states, and more advances can be expected. But it will likely take President Trump being returned to office in November for the current diplomatic momentum to be sustained.
As if Lebanon did not have enough troubles already, the city of Beirut was suddenly rocked by a massive explosion in the busy port area in early August, killing at least 190 people, injuring 6,500 more and leaving 300,000 homeless. Considered the world’s largest conventional detonation in recent memory, the mega-blast was apparently caused by a welder’s accident which set off nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate negligently stored at the Beirut port. An international probe is underway to find those responsible for storing this dangerous material so recklessly, and if it turns out Hizbullah is to blame it could further destabilise a country already reeling from an unprecedented economic meltdown.

As Lebanon slowly began to recover from this crushing blow, local authorities quickly pieced together that a large shipment of the highly combustible fertilizer was impounded in the port six years earlier but had been perilously stored in a nearby warehouse. Suspicions instantly fell on Hizbullah, which effectively controls the port and knows of the dual use of ammonium nitrate in weapons production. In recent years, European intelligence agencies have intercepted two shipments of the dangerous substance being arranged by Hizbullah operatives, and its leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah even joked once in a video message about using it to set off a nuclear-type explosion in Haifa. Thus, many believe Hizbullah latched onto the impounded shipment and was planning to use it to attack Israel.

The immense tragedy came as Lebanon was already in the throes of its worst-ever economic collapse, with the lira losing 80% of its value. This financial ruin was well underway long before the Corona pandemic hit the country, and most analysts blame Hizbullah for siphoning off the country’s resources to fuel its campaign to destroy Israel and its military adventures in Syria.

A recent report estimated it will take $93 billion to bail Lebanon out of the staggering debts that have piled up due to Hizbullah’s malfeasance. And that was before the recent explosion blew a huge crater in Beirut’s busy port and added another $15 billion to the bill.

France, which has colonial ties to Lebanon, has taken the lead in investigating the blast and in the international effort to help Lebanon recover. But it is conditioning foreign assistance on reforms in Lebanon’s unique sectarian-based governing system, which could challenge Hizbullah’s grip on power.

Hizbullah is deeply embedded among the Shi’ites of Lebanon, who make up one-third of the population. And Iran has built Hizbullah into a regional military power now armed with over 150,000 rockets and missiles – far more than the militaries of all but a handful of countries. As a result, Hizbullah essentially holds a veto over Lebanese government decisions.

Yet even many Shi’ites are starting to complain about the way Hizbullah has bankrupted the nation and sent their sons off to die in the Syrian civil war. Meanwhile, Sheikh Nasrallah – once hailed as a hero in the Arab world – is now openly mocked and hung in effigy on the streets of Beirut.

**ICEJ GLOBAL FAMILY ASSISTS OUR LEBANESE BRETHREN**

While the international community seeks to help steer Lebanon through this latest national crisis, Christians around the world responded quickly to our appeals for donations to help local churches and ministries in Beirut recover from the impact of the blast. Over recent weeks, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has transferred over $35,000 in contributions to help several churches, prayer houses and other ministries in the Beirut area repair damages to their facilities and reach out to their communities with a strong Christian witness.

These are all part of a network of ministries in the region who have adopted the ‘Isaiah 19 Highway’ vision of reconciliation between Israel and the Arab world. We are grateful to Tom and Teresa Craig of Lighthouse Ministries for their key role in connecting us to these precious Lebanese brothers and sisters in Christ.
Late in 2019, when the ICEJ began to prepare for the Feast of Tabernacles 2020, which would mark the organisation’s 40th Anniversary, little did we know the impact COVID-19 would have on Israel and the entire world just a few months later. As Israel’s borders remained closed to tourism month after month, the ICEJ’s leadership worldwide sought the Lord’s wisdom and direction on how to “keep the Feast”, as Zechariah 14:16 commands, even with the shutdowns and travel restrictions.

“If people cannot come to celebrate Sukkot with us in Jerusalem, we felt the Lord directing us to broadcast the Feast from Jerusalem to make it available for viewing in every living room, church and nation”, explained ICEJ President Dr Jürgen Bühler. “We quickly saw the opportunity with an online Global Feast to reach more people with more Feast content than we have ever offered before. This included seven daily live worship services from Jerusalem and over 80 seminar sessions, all featuring an anointed array of Israeli and international speakers and worship artists.”

To bring this vision to pass, the ICEJ began working with major Christian TV channels TBN and GOD TV, among other partners, and employed the skills of Israeli software experts to create an online conference platform which not only took the Feast around the world, but will also serve the ministry for years to come.

In another ‘first’ for Feast 2020, Dr Bühler and Tiffany Mallillin, the Feast Registrar, began hosting special local and international guests for a series of weekly Feast Webinars, streamed on ICEJ social media. The premiere episode featured Hossam Nabil straight from Egypt, who described the ‘miraculous rain’ which fell in Cairo at the very moment Egyptian Christians ‘appeared before the Lord’ on stage at last year’s Feast in Jerusalem.

Other highlights included: South African evangelist Angus Buchan recalling the miraculous ‘mighty rushing wind’ of the Holy Spirit during opening night of Feast 2012; Hananya Naftali who produces social media content for Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office; ICEJ-Canada’s Adam Gabeli with his miracle healing story; and Apostle Alberto Magno from ICEJ-Bolivia whose church brings a ‘miracle convoy’ to the Feast every year. These episodes, and others, may be viewed on ICEJ’s Facebook and YouTube channels.

At the center of this transition to a virtual event was an online conference platform designed specifically for the ICEJ in cooperation with Sar-El Media, an Israeli production company operated by local believers.
This platform, designed specifically for the ICEJ, was an unanticipated blessing as it is now available for future Feasts and other special events and initiatives, making our Israel-related content from Jerusalem more widely available than ever before!

Developing a platform like this from scratch in two months was a major feat, made possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of Sar-El Media, the programmers, and the ICEJ’s Chief Information Officer, Alex Mills. Featuring simultaneous translations of live events in 10 languages, plus additional language capabilities, makes the content widely available around the globe for many nations and language groups. Feast 2020 seminars and all special content are still available for viewing on demand through October 2021, through either the 40th Anniversary Package or the Bless Israel Package (details on page 15).

BIRTHED AND sustained in prayer

When the ICEJ was founded in 1980, it was actually birthed in the prayers of intercessors and, throughout the years, prayer has been an integral part of each Feast. In 2016, using the outdoor Sukkah constructed just outside Jerusalem’s Pais Arena, the ICEJ began offering a Sukkah prayer watch, inviting the pilgrims in attendance to bring prayer, praise and worship in their language to the Lord on behalf of their nations.

This year’s Feast featured a 24/7 Zoom Virtual Prayer Room, with watches focusing on different language groups and regions of the world. Continuous prayer and worship went up from Jerusalem and the nations throughout the days of this Feast!

In spite of the new and daunting aspects of producing this year’s event, the spiritual significance of this “Feast of the Lord” stays the same. Abby Bakke, Assistant TV Producer, said it well: “Working on the Feast this year has had many more technical and logistical challenges. But what is the same is believers will still come together to celebrate the God of Israel and the Nations, to dive deeper into knowing Him, and to celebrate His faithfulness. That will never change.”

You may still “appear in Zion” this year by taking advantage of either the 40th Anniversary Package or the Bless Israel Package, giving you access to the rich content from the online Global Feast of Tabernacles 2020 through October 2021. Join us as we all “Prepare the Way of the Lord!”

Local Israeli pastors praying for the nations at the Southern Steps during the Feast of Tabernacles.

ICEJ’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY JOURNAL

The ICEJ’s 40th Anniversary Journal is a colorful, inspiring 60-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.

$20 USD
plus S&H

GREAT GIFTS AND MORE AT ICEJSTORE.COM
FOR MORE RESOURCES SEE PAGES 16-17
This year’s online Global Feast 2020 presented both a unique challenge and a special opportunity for the network of ICEJ national offices worldwide.

On one hand, our national branches had to dramatically change the way they reach out to Christians in their countries concerning the Feast of Tabernacles. Normally, they are recruiting Feast pilgrims for their tour groups, reserving flights and hotels, and advertising the daily programs in Jerusalem’s spacious Pais Arena. This year, however, they needed to inform their constituencies about the new stay-at-home online format, and explain how to register and what they would be receiving in the Feast package.

On the other hand, this year’s Feast was now accessible to nations and peoples who normally would find it difficult to make the trip to Israel. Through our online Feast webinars, we were in touch with believers from dozens of new countries on all continents. Many were excited to learn that if at least ten participants from their nations registered for the online Feast, their flags would be displayed during the Parade of Nations. And in many countries, churches and prayer groups arranged with us to host their own local Feast celebrations and watch the daily live broadcasts from Jerusalem together.

The work of our translators also played a crucial role in the success of this year’s Feast. Through our language coordinators Claudia Fierro (Spanish), Camille Troc (French), Haifa Lu (Chinese), and Anastasiya Gooding (Russian), as well as our branch translators in Germany, Finland, Norway, Holland, Italy and many other national offices, we were able to offer the Feast to a much wider variety of viewers around the world.

Some of our more established national offices also helped produce many of the pre-recorded Feast teachings, with Germany, Norway, Canada and Finland stepping in to ease the burden on our Jerusalem TV team. These four nations do their own original television programming, and thus were able to assist in editing and wrapping more than 60 seminars which were part of the online Feast package.

We also must give credit to our chief information officer Alex Mills and our Feast registrar Tiffany Mallillin, as well as the TV and media/publications teams in Jerusalem, for their extra efforts to communicate with the international offices about the Feast content and registration process, and to solve many technical issues concerning the TV and online broadcasts. We are truly blessed with competent teams, both here in Jerusalem and around the world, who made this unusual online Global Feast such a success!
Be a part of the
GLOBAL FEAST 2020
FEAST of TABERNACLES
SPONSORED BY
THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

YOU MAY STILL “appear in Zion” THIS YEAR!
All of our live broadcasts, seminars, worship sessions, virtual tours and more will be available for you to watch ON DEMAND by registering for the Global Feast 2020. *Offer expires December 31, 2020

40TH ANNIVERSARY PACKAGE
$999 USD
Full conference ticket including the 7-day celebration and access to all seminar tracks until October 2021. Includes the ICEJ 40th Anniversary Souvenir Book, 40th Anniversary olive wood communion cup, and a digital certificate of attendance to the Feast of Tabernacles.

Note: Postage fee already included in price. Shipping may take longer than normal due to delays in postal services worldwide.

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Full conference including 7-day celebration, access to all seminar tracks until October 2021. Includes the ICEJ 40th Anniversary Souvenir Book, 40th Anniversary olive wood communion cup, and a digital certificate of attendance to the Feast of Tabernacles.

*50 USD allocated to donations as Feast firstfruit offering and aid for Holocaust survivors in Israel.

THIS YEAR’S FEAST SPEAKERS INCLUDED
Jürgen Bühler, Angus Buchan, Enoch Adeboye, Younghoon Lee, Billy Wilson, Robert Morris, Renê Terra Nova, Peter Tsukahira, Manasa Kolivuso, Israel Pochtar, Afeef Halashah, Anne Graham Lotz, Heidi Baker, Joel Rosenberg, Malcolm Hedding, Suzette Hattingh, Mats Ola Ishoel, Daniel Yahav, Mosy Madugba, Susan Michael, Joseph Chou, David Parsons, Mojmir Kallus, Barry Denison, Nicole Yoder, Susanna Kokkonen, Dag Øyvind Juliusen, Gottfried Bühler, Jani Salokangas, Jehu Chan, Jacob Keegastra, Robert Baxter, Howard Flower, Chris Mitchell, Steve Carpenter, Andrew Tucker, David Pileggi, Samuel Smadja, Caleb Myers, Avi Mizrahi, Berlie Belay, Oded Shoshani, Avraham Ben Hod, Benjamin Berger, Michael Yaron, Shmuel Bowman, Josh Reinstein, Eugene Kontorovich, Michael Freund, Dmitriy Radyshevsky, Tom Craig, Saleem Shalash, Hossam Nabil, Mosab Hassan, Rebecca Enenche, Maria Pearn, Gloria Madugba, Lily Sironi, Leke Adeboye, Dr. Luis Salares, Alberto Magno, Boris Girsenko, and many more.

GLOBAL FEAST 2020
To find out more about this year’s online Global Feast 2020 go to: on.icej.org/FOT2020

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Carved from genuine olive wood, engraved with Feast of Tabernacles
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GREAT GIFTS AND MORE AT ICEJSTORE.COM
FOR MORE RESOURCES SEE PAGES 16-17
FLOODGATES  BY DAVID R. PARSONS

When His disciples asked Jesus for His views on the end times, He pointed to the “days of Noah” as the key to unlock the timing of “the coming of the Son of Man.” But what exactly did He mean by that?

FLOODGATES unravels precisely what happened in the Flood of Noah and explains why this important biblical event is such a fitting analogy for our day. This book offers a clear biblical paradigm for determining where we are on the prophetic timetable, based on the actual teachings of Jesus and the apostles.

LIVING FULLY FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF ISAIAH 19  
BY TOM CRAIG

What do current events in the Middle East have to do with the Kingdom of God — and why should believers care? Understanding the prophetic vision of Isaiah 19 brings sense to the seemingly nonsensical conflicts plaguing that vital region of the world. The Lord is preparing to propel Egypt onto a turbulent course of divine confrontation and spiritual breakthrough, leading to the entire nation of surviving Egyptians becoming worshippers of the Lord — and joining with the other nations of the Middle East including Israel to become — “a blessing in the midst of the earth” (Isaiah 19:24).

CULTURE OF THE KINGDOM  
BY PETER TSUKAHIRA

“They were asking Him, saying,”Lord, is it at this time you are restoring the Kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6)

This was the last question the disciples asked their Master on the earth. Culture of the Kingdom looks into this intriguing request by the ones who knew the Lord best. His answer tells us why the restoration of God’s Kingdom and modern Israel are important to us today. Join with the author as he begins a journey along the frontier where the kingdom of God meets the cultures of the nations.

FOUNDATIONAL TEACHING  
5 BOOKS SERIES  BY MALCOLM HEDDING

Discover God’s Purpose for Israel, the Church and the Nations Today, the belief system of ‘Replacement Theology’ is once again gathering traction in the Church, influencing a new generation of leaders who see Christian 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.

God’s Tsunami  
BY PETER TSUKAHIRA

The devastation caused by the recent Asian tsunami occurred while this book was being prepared for its second printing. No one was able to predict this massive natural disaster and the terrible suffering it caused. However, many of the events that are today’s “breaking news” were foretold by the prophets of Israel thousands of years ago. God’s Tsunami is about biblical prophecy and how its fulfillment is joining the destinies of Israel and the nations of the world. The shockwaves from this convergence are generating a spiritual tidal wave of change affecting all the earth.

Mighty - WORSHIP CD

Enjoy these beautiful worship songs in Hebrew, produced by Pekka Simojoki and Vesna Buehler, featuring various worship leaders from Israel (incl. Shilo Ben Hod, Birgitta Veksler, Vesna Buehler) and choir of young believers from Israel.

Includes booklet of song lyrics and lead song sheets in English and Hebrew.

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The Israel Flag
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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

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All of our lives have been disrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic, including a whole generation of children forced to learn remotely from home. But for many disadvantaged families in Israel, this disruption was felt even more when schools closed during nationwide lockdowns. Since their parents could not afford computers at home, many children suddenly found themselves falling behind classmates who could continue their studies online.

In response, Israel’s education ministry launched the “Computer for Every Child” project to ensure all children had access to a computer at home. However, each municipality had to contribute towards purchasing computers for disadvantaged families in their town, with each family asked to make a modest contribution as well.

During the summer break, the city of Ma’ale Adumim identified 75 families who qualify for the program. Many are immigrant or single-parent households who generally find it difficult to pay even for schoolbooks and after-school activities. In addition, the town budget is already stretched by the many challenges of Corona. When the mayor’s office approached the Christian Embassy for help, we quickly agreed to purchase computers for 69 families.

Nicole Yoder, ICEJ Vice President for Aid and Aliyah, presented the computers to several students and their families at a recent ceremony hosted by Mayor Benny Kashriel. The mayor thanked the ICEJ and our donors worldwide for extending a hand of friendship in this time of difficulty, by not only giving these computers but also providing hot meals to many elderly residents in Ma’ale Adumim over recent months.

Each family receiving a computer also will receive an internet connection, have a technician install the computer, and get basic instructions on how to use it. As classes resume this fall, a whole new world of opportunity is within reach.

Meantime, many older Israeli students are in need of computers for remote learning in order to pursue university studies. Devorah, an English teacher at the Hebrew University preparatory program noticed several of her Ethiopian Jewish students were unable to participate in online lectures, as they did not have computers at home. This was hindering these bright young students who were aspiring to earn university degrees and start professional careers.

It happened that Devorah had fond memories of working with the ICEJ at a previous job, which prompted her to come back to us for help. Our AID team quickly committed to providing computers for three of her students in need. ICEJ AID director Nicole Yoder recently had an amazing encounter with these young ladies, who shared about their dreams and family backgrounds. Nicole also had the chance to explain why Christians love the Jewish people.

Eden always knew her future was in the medical field, and although there is a long road ahead in studying dentistry, she is not dismayed. Nicole discovered that her grandmother made Aliyah last year on a flight sponsored by ICEJ. Eden met her grandmother for the first time that day and is very grateful for that moment and for her laptop.

Meital is the fifth of ten children. She is still deciding between a degree in mechanical or chemical engineering. She will earn a degree as part of her military service, then serve in the IDF for six years using her expertise to benefit the country, while gaining practical experience for a future job.

Rachel recently gained practical training in a psychiatric hospital, which anchored her decision to pursue nursing as a profession. She also realised the importance of listening to people in her care. Her family made Aliyah from Ethiopia in 1998, but they still are waiting for her uncle to arrive in Israel. Chances are he will come on an ICEJ-sponsored flight.

“It was such a joy to meet these dedicated students, to hear their dreams, and to do something towards helping them realise those dreams”, Nicole remarked afterwards. “Proper assistance given at the right time can make all the difference!”

1. Nicole Yoder (center) at the ceremony in Maale Adumim for families receiving much-needed home computers.

1. Three Hebrew University students talk about their futures with Nicole Yoder.
SOUTHERN ISRAEL ABLAZE
ICEJ FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT PUT TO DAILY USE
BY LAURINA DRIESE

It is a beautiful blue-sky day. In the distance, something is coming closer... balloons and more balloons gently floating on the breeze. The bright, colourful kind normally used for joyous occasions. But not this time, and certainly not for Israelis living near the Gaza border!

Sadly, terrorists in Gaza once again spent the entire month of August inflating balloons, rigging them with fire-bomb devices, and waiting for the sea breeze to carry them eastward over the border to sow destruction in nearby Israeli fields and orchards.

August is the peak of the summer dry season, and the southwest trade winds off the Mediterranean pick up every afternoon. Conditions are perfect for wildfires to ignite and quickly spread. It is hard to imagine living like this — not knowing where the next fire will start, or whether your child will be drawn to a colourful fire balloon or kite which could detonate in their hands.

This is the third summer now that terror groups in Gaza have used this twisted tactic to scorch the fields and orchards of their Israeli neighbours. Local security chiefs in southern Israel had their hands full as the number of fire kites and balloons jumped dramatically this summer. In the Sha’ar HaNegev region, first responders faced more than 425 brush fires in one two-week period. Meanwhile in the adjacent Eshkol region, security officer Elan Isaacson confirmed that they, too, were battling 25 to 30 fires a day!

"Beautiful forests and nature reserves are being ruined," Isaacson told ICEJ. "Pomegranate and avocado orchards have been destroyed." For the local Israeli farmers, this is a devastating loss of the fruit of their labours. Pomegranate trees take at least two to three years to bear fruit and another seven months for the fruit to mature. The pomegranate also is an important symbol for the Jewish fall holidays of Rosh HaShana and Sukkot. And the loss of the avocado harvest is equally heart-breaking, as these fruit trees take up to six or seven years to bear fruit.

When these acts of arson first began in 2018, the ICEJ was asked to help the affected Israeli communities combat the fires destroying their livelihoods. Thanks to generous Christian donors, we were able to provide 18 fire-fighting trailers and five specially-equipped ATVs to the farming villages along the Gaza border.

Each fire-trailer is equipped with a large water tank, pump, generator and hoses which can be hooked to 4x4 vehicles so they can reach all kinds of terrain. The ATVs have similar fire-fighting equipment and are quicker and more agile to get to the back of the fields and orchards within minutes. These fire-fighter trailers and ATVs are now stationed every two kilometers along the Gaza border and are constantly on alert to fight the rash of fires started by incendiary balloons.

"It is so gratifying to know that all this fire-fighting equipment we provided over recent years is being put to such good use every day," said Nicole Yoder, ICEJ Vice President for Aid and Aliyah. "Our donations have enabled these communities to respond in real-time whenever emergencies arise, strengthening our friends and helping bring a sense of security to those living so close to danger." (📸)

1. A pomegranate orchard ruined by a fire-balloon.
2. A special fire-fighting ATV provided by an ICEJ donor.

There is still a need for more fire-fighting equipment which will enable local first responders to protect their fields and families even better.

So please consider giving to our Israel in Crisis fund.
DONATE TODAY AT: ICEJ.ORG/CRISIS
Since our founding in 1980, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has assisted nearly 160,000 Jewish people in making Aliyah to Israel. That represents more than ten percent of the Jews who have journeyed home to Israel in the past four decades. They are coming from the north, south, east and west — just as the Bible promised.

Our Aliyah efforts are largely in cooperation with the Jewish Agency for Israel, a unique quasi-governmental organisation which has overseen Jewish immigration to the Land of Israel since before the state was founded in 1948. Recently, JAFI chairman Isaac Herzog hosted ICEJ President Dr Jürgen Bühler in his offices to talk about the organisation’s history and its work with Christians to help Jews returning to Israel.

Herzog noted it was actually the League of Nations which mandated in 1922 that a “Jewish agency” be created to help secure the Jewish homeland. This agency was to represent Jewish interests in the Land of Israel, on behalf of both those living there as well as Jews still in the Diaspora.

“We have brought in almost four million new olim – Jews immigrating back home”, explained Herzog. “Last year, we brought in 35,000 from 45 countries. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we only have had 10,000 from about 25 countries, with about 3,500 needing our financial assistance. Yet the engine of Aliyah goes on and on, and this is our main mission.”

“That’s interesting”, said Dr Bühler. “We have sponsored flights for more than 1,400 Jewish immigrants this year. So that’s over one-third of the new arrivals needing assistance in 2020.”

“I respect the Christian Embassy for the great work you are doing. Thank you!” Herzog responded.

Herzog stressed the importance of working with ICEJ and other Christians to complete the prophetic Return of the Jewish people back to the land of their forefathers.

“I believe the Christian world has a major role to play in bringing about the fulfillment of the [biblical] prophecies”, Herzog stated. “And we are grateful to kind Christians who support the idea of bringing Jews back to their ancient homeland and in the Ingathering of the exiles.”

Christian assistance will become more important than ever, Herzog added, since the Jewish Agency is forecasting a huge wave of Aliyah ahead. In fact, they expect as many as 250,000 Jews to move to Israel over the next three-to-five years, as the Corona crisis eases.

“From the beginning of this year, we had almost 100,000 phone calls inquiring about Aliyah”, Herzog said. “Much of this 400% rise in interest in Aliyah came from North America, but we have a rise in requests for Aliyah coming from all over the world. We are working with the Israeli government to complete a national plan for the next five years to meet this challenge.”

When Herzog expressed his belief that Christians have a central role to play in the Ingathering of the Jewish exiles, this thought comes straight from Scripture. Indeed, the prophet Isaiah foresaw a time when God would “beckon to the nations” to “bring your sons in their arms and carry your daughters on their hips” (Isaiah 49:22-23).

Christians truly are invited to partner with God in the modern-day restoration of Israel. This has been a core mission of the Christian Embassy for forty years now, and it has not stopped during the COVID crisis. We are still bringing Jews home to Israel every week, and we invite you to be part of this prophetic work by joining our ‘Rescue250’ campaign.

The Rescue250 campaign is a challenge to Christian supporters of Israel around the globe to help the ICEJ maintain our current pace of flying at least 250 Jews home to Israel each month until the Corona crisis eases. With most global travel halted, these ‘evacuation flights’ are bringing Jews caught in desperate circumstances due to this global pandemic. Many had already quit their jobs and left their apartments expecting to move to Israel and then Corona hit and left them in limbo.

So this is both a prophetic mandate and a humanitarian mission, and we welcome your help in bringing them home to Israel as soon as possible.

Book a seat for a Jewish family today.
DONATE AT: ON.ICEJ.ORG/RESCUE250
ICEJ ‘RESCUE FLIGHTS’ TRULY SAVING LIVES
BY ANASTASIYA GOODING

There are many Jewish families desperate to reach Israel amid the Corona crisis. Thanks to our Christian donors, the ICEJ has brought over 1400 Jewish immigrants on evacuation flights since February. Each one has made their own unique journey home to Israel. Here are two families we have helped.

THE FLIGHT THAT SAVED A LIFE
Normally, the Aliyah process takes time and lots of paperwork. But for one Russian Jewish family who arrived this summer, there was no time to waste. Their seven year-old son was battling lymphatic cancer and needed life-saving treatments in Israel. So they were fast-tracked for citizenship in only one week’s time, and the young boy arrived in late June on an ICEJ-sponsored rescue flight. His story is one of a miracle still in the making.

Some 20 months ago, Boris Zheleznyak learned his son Maxim had acute leukaemia. Maxim began treatment in one of Russia’s best hospitals, and his parents devoted their all to caring for him. His mother even left work, and long before Corona hit they already were taking extraordinary steps to keep their home free of infections.

“For the first time after a year and a half of a desperate struggle for the life of our son, we have hope for salvation,” Boris exclaimed.

Young Maxim is now being treated at Schneider Children’s Hospital in Petah Tikvah. Please keep praying that he will beat the cancer and grow up healthy and happy in Israel.

A DAUGHTER IN NEED
Another Jewish family brought on a recent ICEJ ‘rescue flight’ are the parents of Olga Mursalieva, who also is receiving urgent cancer treatments in Israel and needed her father and mother here at her side. Olga made Aliyah from Russia herself last November as a single mother with three children. After settling in Haifa, her future looked bright. But just weeks later, she was diagnosed with cancer.

Facing this sudden crisis, Olga encouraged her parents in Russia who quickly decided to move to Israel to be near her. They started the Aliyah process, quit their jobs, sold their house, said goodbye to friends, packed their belongings, and by early April were ready to leave. Then, literally on the way to the airport, they were shocked to hear that all flights were cancelled due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Russia. They had to turn around – but to where? And they were afraid news of the delay would send Olga into despair.

But with help from the Jewish Agency, Olga’s parents were quickly approved to board an evacuation flight to Israel sponsored by the Christian Embassy. They made it into the country in June and after two weeks of quarantine, were reunited with their daughter Olga and their three grandchildren. The fact that it happened so quickly seemed like a miracle.

Now they are caring for their three grandchildren and are so grateful to be here in Israel as a family together. Olga is currently being treated at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa, where she is in good hands with her doctors, her parents, and her faith in God.
ICEJ PETITION ON DANISH BIBLE GETS RESULTS!

BY DAVID PARSONS

In April, Christians in Denmark raised the alarm about a new translation of the Bible published by the Danish Bible Society which omitted or replaced hundreds of references to “Israel” in both the Old and New Testaments. In response, the ICEJ launched a global online petition urging the Danish Bible Society to recall the new Contemporary Danish Bible 2020 and return to using “Israel” in all places where it appears in Scripture. The petition read:

“We are Christians from around the world who commend the United Bible Societies for their noble mission to make the Word of God available to all peoples. But we also must express our deep disapproval of the Bibel2020 edition recently published by the Danish Bible Society, which omits or replaces hundreds of references to “Israel” in both the Old and New Testaments. The Word of God is unchanging and we must safeguard its integrity and eternal truths, including the central, enduring role the Bible gives to Israel in God’s redemptive plan for the world. We urge you to demonstrate respect for the Holy Scriptures by withdrawing this seriously flawed Bible translation from circulation.”

We can now report that 100,447 Christians from some 130 nations signed our online petition and the results have been delivered to the Secretary General and board members of the Danish Bible Society. We also are pleased to report that the Danish Bible Society recently announced on their website that they had decided to restore all references to Israel in the New Testament, while a special committee of scholars would be convened to approve the same changes in the Old Testament. It appears this decision was made due to our ongoing petition, as well as because of the efforts of other national Bible Societies and individual Christian scholars who engaged in detailed discussions with the Danish Bible Society in regards to their mishandling of the Word of God.

ICEJ PETITION ON DANISH BIBLE GETS RESULTS!

EMERGING FROM ISOLATION

BY MAXINE CARLILL

For elderly Russian Jews visited by ICEJ Homecare, the Corona pandemic’s abrupt change of lifestyle was a shock. These elderly immigrants often feel uprooted from their land of origin and now were cut off from their children and grandchildren. In the first weeks of restrictions, the Homecare team brought groceries to their apartments and developed a ‘doorstep ministry’ as we conversed with them from the stairwell. Now we are allowed a few in-home visits and went to check a little closer on some of these dear Israelis.

Tanya, who made Aliyah over twenty years ago from Ukraine, turned the crisis into a learning challenge. “The Eternal wants us to learn something”, she said. She began to study history books about Israel and make notes, then call one of her ultra-Orthodox grandsons to share what she learned. After six weeks of being by herself, she remarked: “As much as I missed my grandchildren, the history of Israel which I didn’t know at all, came alive.”

Anna came to Israel in the 1990s with her mother and sister, and settled in southern Israel. Besides disappointments with Israel, she still carries painful memories of antisemitism in Russia. Anna lives alone and shuns social contact to avoid being hurt by others. However, our regular visits over the years have resulted in a special relationship. Once restrictions eased, we sat in her simply furnished apartment and inquired how she had fared through the lockdown. At the end of our visit, Anna could not restrain herself. “I would like to get a hug from you”, she pleaded. Amid such loneliness, no one can go without a touch of love. Wearing masks, we gave her a big embrace and left her smiling. “Your visits are my feast!” she likes to say.

Faina also lives alone and grieves the loss of her sister and flatmate of many years. When we talked about the lockdown, we saw it had been a struggle. She lifted her arms and cried: “Every morning I begin with ‘Shema Israel’. Hear O, God, Your grace and compassion over all Your children.” She learned the prayer in Yiddish from her parents back in Communist Russia. This prayer became a lifeline in a sea of uncertainty, knowing she is not alone.

We have many more stories of ministering to these lonely Jewish immigrants during this challenging time. We indeed are called “for such a time as this” to bless and comfort Israel. Our hearts are grateful for the many believers from the nations who sow seeds of love into the work of ICEJ Homecare.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY AT:

icej.org/homecare
PRAYER FROM JERUSALEM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

BY JOSH & ANASTASIYA GOODING

Isaiah 59:19 says: “When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.”

During the current global pandemic, we want to be men and women of faith who are hearing from the Holy Spirit and responding with confidence and obedience to His leading. This desire to hear clearly from the Lord has stirred the ICEJ to increase our prayer efforts as never before, especially through new online means.

This spring, the Christian Embassy initiated a weekly online Global Prayer Gathering, which has attracted believers from over 100 nations in recent months. Then in late May, the ICEJ sent out a call to the nations to come before the Lord with prayer and fasting on the Day of Pentecost. The ICEJ held a special 13-hour Global Pentecost prayer marathon which united thousands of Christians from around the world. After that, our national branches urged the Jerusalem headquarters to continue these virtual prayer vigils, though it was clear that 13 hours was not enough time.

The Lord then led us to explore the Hebrew calendar and specifically the moed’s (“appointed times”) set by God when He promised to meet with His people. One of these appointed times is at the beginning of each new month in the Hebrew calendar, known as Rosh Chodesh. So we launched a global prayer chain encircling the earth every Rosh Chodesh, based on the prophetic vision of Isaiah: “And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.” (Isaiah 66:23)

Our first Rosh Chodesh 24-hour Prayer Chain took place on 22-23 June, and God was present from start to finish. For 24 hours, we sought the Lord in earnest prayer from dozens of locations around the globe and in many languages. Feeling the call from the Lord to increase the number of hours of prayer each month leading up to the Feast of Tabernacles, the ICEJ then hosted a 30-hour Prayer Chain in July and 48-hour Rosh Chodesh Prayer Chain in August, with more than 40 different countries coming together for a powerful time of prayer and intercession.

From September 17-20, the Christian Embassy hosted a 72-hour Prayer Chain to mark a special Rosh Hashana – the start of the Jewish New Year. More than 50 nations participated. This was a fitting way to not only start the new year correctly, but also the fall High Holy Days as we approached Yom Kippur and then the joyous Feast of Tabernacles.

As an outgrowth of this expanding prayer initiative, we are excited that during the week of the Feast of Tabernacles this year the ICEJ hosted 24-hour online prayer sessions for all seven days of the Feast. Please join us for the next online prayer vigil starting 18 October 2020, which will be resounding outward from here in Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

If you would like to participate in the Rosh Chodesh Prayer Call, please contact the ICEJ Prayer Coordinator Joshua Gooding at joshua.gooding@icej.org
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