Dear friends,

Israel has become a leading nation in so many areas. A recent visit to the ICEJ sponsored ARISE Summit of over 500 mostly evangelical business leaders from around the world underlined this, as these businessmen sought for new ways to partner with Israeli counterparts (see p. 7). Israel today has become a leading nation in research and innovation, bypassing most industrial nations of the world. Today it is second only to the USA in scientific research, and became a world leader in many areas like cyber security and ‘big data’ algorithms and applications. Over 300 major high tech companies have research centers today in Israel.

For many new immigrants, therefore, moving to Israel means to not only return to the land of their forefathers but can also mean professional advancement and new opportunities in cutting-edge technologies.

For this reason ICEJ has partnered with the Jewish Agency and OFEK (an Israeli government sponsored organization) to hold seminars around the world for Jews to encourage them to come home to Israel. These seminars not only show the practical and prophetic dimension of Aliyah but also the opportunities this might open, especially for young families and youth to move to Israel. We also have the opportunity at these seminars to explain why Christians help in bringing them to Israel. You can read more about this on pages 16 + 17. Please continue to support this important part of our work.

As the year starts there will be plenty of opportunities to grow the various aspects of our ministry. The expansion of our Haifa home is well underway and we expect the resumption of Ethiopian Aliyah as soon as Israel’s new government is in place.

Also this year at the Feast of Tabernacles we will celebrate 40 years of ICEJ. While we look back to remember God’s faithfulness in so many areas we also will look forward to the exciting things God is doing in the land of Israel and in the countries around Israel.

As I write this I am saddened as we just learned of the passing of Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke who served on the ICEJ Advisory Board. Through his life millions came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. His ministry impacted the entire continent of Africa but was also characterized by a deep love for Israel. He was one of the great Generals of God in our time and his ministry and testimony will be greatly missed.

I hope you are blessed as you read the Word from Jerusalem.

Yours in Christ

Dr Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ President

COVER PHOTO:
The Red Canyon in the Eilat Mountains.
(Photographed during the Arise Summer Tour 2019)
Photo Credit: ICEJ/Jan Salonkangas

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

4 Balaam and the Fringes of the Camp

8 The ‘Knock’ on Netanyahu

11 ICEJ Impacting Israeli Communities Through Social Businesses

12 Smoothing the Way for New Immigrants

18 “We Won!” ICEJ Celebrates Israel Day
One of the Bible’s most tragic figures is the prophet Balaam. He was a hired-gun prophet lured by fame, honor and money to curse the people of God. Three times the New Testament uses him as a warning and example for similar type of evil prophets who would emerge in the last day’s church (2 Peter 2:15; Jude 1:11; Revelation 2:14).

In many ways Balaam’s story is an example of how Satan tries to attack the people of God – both Israel and the church today. The same strategy is repeated throughout history in the way nations and individuals deal with the Jewish people and it is also employed by Satan when dealing with the church – through attacks from without and from within.

The story begins at the very end of Israel’s 40 years of desert wandering; the nations in and around Canaan increasingly perceived the people of Israel as a major threat. After successfully countering attacks from the Canaanite King of Arad (Numbers 21:1-3) and the Amorites (Numbers 21:21-31) Israel stood at the banks of the river Jordan opposite Jericho just about to enter into their destiny, the land of Israel. Then the Bible tells us: “Now Balak, the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. And Moab was exceedingly afraid of the people because they were many, and Moab was sick with dread because of the children of Israel” (Numbers 22:2-3).

Balak, the Moabite king’s name, is best translated as ‘devastator’. Balak saw his influence shrinking and made a noteworthy decision. Unlike the king of the Canaanites and the Amorites, he did not resort to his army and military experience but looked instead for a spiritual solution, a curse. He called for Balaam, an expert prophet known to communicate with Jehovah the almighty God. According to Jewish tradition Balaam’s position among the Gentile nations was equal to that of Moses in regard to Israel.

While God repeatedly warned Balaam not to engage in that mission, Balaam persisted in looking for a spiritual loophole to still curse the people of Israel, and even a talking donkey could not dissuade him. When Balaam arrived at Moab, ready to fulfill his mission, what happened next is a textbook lesson on Satan’s schemes against God’s people.
“So it was, the next day, that Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal, that from there he might observe the extent of the people” (Numbers 22:41).

But the scheme of Balak did not work and Balaam was ordered by God to bless Israel, which he did. “How can I curse what God has not cursed ... behold a people dwelling alone ... let my end by like his” (Numbers 23:8-10).

Balak, furious about Balaam’s blessing, repeated the scheme but shifted the perspective: “Please come with me to another place from which you may see them; you shall see only the outer part of them, and shall not see them all; curse them for me from there” (Numbers 23:13). But even there, Balaam could only bless Israel: “God is not a man that he should change his mind ... he has blessed and I cannot revoke. He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob ... for there is no enchantment against Jacob...” (Numbers 23:19-23).

Note what Balak did: He never gave Balaam the full picture but only showed him the ‘extent of the people’ and ‘the outer part’ of Israel. He only allowed Balaam to see the fringes of Israel and never the entire camp. The question is what exactly did Balaam see? You might be surprised but the Bible tells us what he most likely saw.

The fringes of the camp
The word of God provides great detail of what happened at the fringes, at the outskirts of the camp. In Leviticus 13:46 God commanded lepers where to live ‘outside the camp,’ and is also where criminals and blasphemers were stoned to death (Leviticus 24:14; Numbers 15:35), the unclean lived (Num 5:3) and, in a case of war, ‘outside the camp’ served as the army’s latrine. Imagine what Balaam saw when he looked at the ‘outer parts of the camp’: Unclean people, lepers, storings and most likely constant toilet runs. It must have looked awkward and was thus an easy prey to curse.

It must have been even more amazing for Balaam when God was not willing to curse such an awkward-looking people. On the contrary when Balaam prophesies by the Holy Spirit: “He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob nor has he seen trouble in Israel,” he might have wondered about who is God speaking. “Is this really the people I see,” Balaam might have asked himself.

The full picture
But as Balaam prepared to prophecy a third time he now understood it was a hopeless endeavor to curse Israel. God was obviously determined to bless Israel and thus there must have been more to the people of God than what he saw, so Balaam tried to see the full picture. “Now when Balaam saw that it pleased the Lord to bless Israel, he did not go as at other times, to seek to use sorcery... And Balaam raised his eyes, and saw Israel encamped according to their tribes; and the Spirit of God came upon him” (Numbers 24:1-2).

What a magnificent view it must have been. The 12 tribes of Israel arranged in perfect order: Three tribes each towards east, south, west and north, with every tribe’s banner directed towards the center. An inner ring of tents was reserved for the levitical orders Kehat, Gershon and Merari, and in the center of it all stood the tabernacle, with the cloud of the glory by day and a pillar of fire by night. When Balaam saw this the Spirit of God came upon him and he cried out: “How lovely are your tents oh Jacob, your encampments oh Israel!” He began to understand the purpose of God for Israel and declared “Blessed are those who bless you and cursed are those who curse you” (Numbers 24:3-9).

A spiritual battlefield
This story has tremendous applications for us as Satan employs exactly the same scheme today. Small incidents in Israel make it with incredible ease into the world media. Just a few weeks ago the United Nations looked again at Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, a nation with a more free and diverse media than most other nations of the world, a nation which provides more international aid in global crisis situations than most other countries, and turned the desert into a garden of eden.

But Israel was not commended by the UN for its leadership but instead, was condemned eight times that day. In an entire year, countries like North Korea, Syria, Iran and similar states received only one (1) resolution against them in total. Israel received eight in one day! Surely, Israel is not a perfect country and many issues still need to be solved. But considering they are surrounded by entities and groups that plan 24/7 to annihilate them, the Jewish State is doing remarkable well, in fact better than many western democracies.

Why is the world so obsessed by Israel? What other explanation can there be than indeed dark spiritual powers are directing minds to look only at the ‘outskirts of the camp’ as Balaam did in the biblical account. The word of God teaches that spiritual principalities rule over nations and regions. The Prophet Daniel experienced this when, during his prayer time, angelic powers were mobilized and he received revelation about a ‘prince of Persia’ and a ‘prince of Greece’ with authority over powerful kingdoms (Daniel 10:13, 20). As Paul describes: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

Just as Balak (the destroyer) directed and manipulated Balaam to look only at ‘the fringes’ of the camp and curse the people of God, these evil principalities of destruction guide the minds of decision makers today according to his desire (Ephesians 2:1-3). Illogical decisions are made which defy reason but amazingly they are applauded by a majority of the nations. The ‘settlements’ which in many places become true places of co-existence between Jews and Arabs, where Palestinian workers earn equal to Israeli workers and often support entire families, are called ‘obstacles to peace.’ Israel that defends itself against barrages of rockets from Gaza is condemned as the aggressor. Why? Because the full picture is so often withheld from decision makers.

Satan also works this way within the church and among believers. We all have our ‘fringe issues’; areas in our lives that are imperfect.
That is true for any individual and for the church. None of us is perfect and there is no perfect church. On the contrary John says if we pretend to be perfect we deceive ourselves and even make God a liar (1 John 1:8-10). But these ‘fringe issues’ in our lives and in the lives of others are exactly the areas Satan likes to bring to our attention. He highlights what is imperfect in our church, with our Pastors and with brothers and sisters around us. He points out the ‘fringe areas’ of our spouses and our children, and encourages a verdict based on them. If we dwell on these ‘fringe issues’ and give them room in our thinking and judgement this can lead to church splits or broken families and instead of blessings we declare curses and cause division.

The view of God
What amazes me is the way God declared his view through the Holy Spirit through Balaam:

“He has not observed iniquity in Jacob, nor has He seen wickedness in Israel. The Lord his God is with him, and the shout of a King is among them” (Numbers 23:21). This is a rather amazing statement, considering Balaam was looking down on the place where leprosy, impurity and sin was to be found. Even more astonishing, a review of the preceding chapters does not portray people in which there is no iniquity or wickedness, but rather describes a complaining people (Numbers 11). The Bible recounts key tribal leaders attacking Moses (Numbers 16) and even Aaron and Miriam attacking their brother (Numbers 12). It depicts a people refusing to enter the promised land (Numbers 13, 14) and being impatient with God and Moses. Balaam could have found plenty of material to base his curses on. But in spite of all this God declares “He has not observed iniquity in Jacob” and “How lovely are your encampments O Israel!”

This divine view is beyond human logic. I can only explain it by what happened day in and day out in the tabernacle right in the center of the camp. Twice a day, the priests would sacrifice a perfect lamb (Exodus 29:38-45) which would provide sanctification and allow God “to dwell among his people”. It is the blood that atones for our sin and covers them before God’s sight (Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:12).

Practical Applications to Combat the “Devastator’s” Schemes:

1. PRAYER

One of our most powerful tools is prayer. Fervent prayer can change the atmosphere of a family, church and even a nation. Daniel’s 21 days of prayer and fasting affected the heavenly realities in his time (Daniel 10). Targeted and persevering prayer of the believer can change a hostile atmosphere in a country that looks at and highlights the faults and shortcomings of Israel (and the church.) Persevering prayer can break the spirit of anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism.

2. SPEAK THE TRUTH

Secondly if Israel’s enemies highlight her faults and perceived problematic issues, we need all the more to boldly proclaim the truth. The book of Revelation tells us they overcame the Devil “… by the word of their testimony...”. If you read an unbalanced, one-sided article about Israel, write back to the paper and show the full picture, ‘the whole camp.’ Speak about Israel’s amazing contribution to the world and the Middle East and ask the paper to be more balanced next time.

The same is true with your nation’s political stand. If you live in a country that encourages political dialogue, make your voice heard through letters to your representatives or join or even organize a solidarity initiative in your city.

3. LOVE

This is particularly true within the church. Peter makes an amazing statement: “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”” (1 Peter 4:8). An atmosphere of love and forgiveness will attract God’s favorable look upon his church and thus attract his blessing. Of course, sins need to be called by name and we are encouraged to admonish our brothers and sisters. But it must be done in love and compassion in the same way God is merciful to each one of us.

Balaam’s story is repeatedly used in the New Testament as an example for what will happen in the last days. We do well to heed these warnings and act accordingly. It may not only prevent great harm but also, if we act in the right way, it can release a new blessing to our lives, churches, nations and even upon Israel.

Therefore, if you are a believer and have put your faith in Jesus, the Word of God declares that Jesus is your lamb and we are justified through his blood. This is how heaven looks at us and is how we should look at each other. Knowing that we ourselves have received forgiveness in Jesus for all our shortcomings we need to see our brothers and sisters likewise.

I pray that as we look upon each other and upon Israel that we choose heaven’s perspective and confess with God: How lovely are your tents O Jacob! ☺

ICEJ STAFF JOINS CHRISTIAN MEDIA SUMMIT

BY ICEJ STAFF

Recently, a strong contingent of local ICEJ staff led by David Parsons and ICEJ representatives from abroad took part in the third annual Christian Media Summit, sponsored by the Israel Government Press Office. The four-day event featured a reception and press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a full day of lectures and briefings by Israeli officials and experts, as well as a field trip to the Golan which included a dedication ceremony at Ramat Trump (the new village established in honour of the US President’s recent recognition of Israel’s claim to the Golan Heights).

There also was a special track for young Christian journalists and social media activists which was joined by several of our Jerusalem staff. The summit concluded with a reception and audience with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin at his official residence, where the ICEJ delegates came together for a group photo.

ICEJ leadership was honored to recently attend the 2019 ARISE Business Summit in Rishon LeTzion. ARISE founder Calev Myers created the event to introduce believing ministries around the world to Israel’s amazing innovation. Over 500 international investors and Israeli business owners had over 150 one-on-one meetings throughout the course of the event, discussing mutually beneficial investment opportunities. The Summit was a great success and the ICEJ is proud to partner with ARISE in bringing growth to the nation of Israel.

ICEJ STAFF JOINS CHRISTIAN MEDIA SUMMIT

SIGN UP TODAY: WWW.ARISEGENERATION.ORG

ARISE SUMMIT 2019

ICEJ leadership was honored to recently attend the 2019 ARISE Business Summit in Rishon LeTzion. ARISE founder Calev Myers created the event to introduce believing ministries around the world to Israel’s amazing innovation. Over 500 international investors and Israeli business owners had over 150 one-on-one meetings throughout the course of the event, discussing mutually beneficial investment opportunities. The Summit was a great success and the ICEJ is proud to partner with ARISE in bringing growth to the nation of Israel.

ARISE SUMMIT 2019

ICEJ leadership was honored to recently attend the 2019 ARISE Business Summit in Rishon LeTzion. ARISE founder Calev Myers created the event to introduce believing ministries around the world to Israel’s amazing innovation. Over 500 international investors and Israeli business owners had over 150 one-on-one meetings throughout the course of the event, discussing mutually beneficial investment opportunities. The Summit was a great success and the ICEJ is proud to partner with ARISE in bringing growth to the nation of Israel.

ARISE SUMMIT 2019

ICEJ leadership was honored to recently attend the 2019 ARISE Business Summit in Rishon LeTzion. ARISE founder Calev Myers created the event to introduce believing ministries around the world to Israel’s amazing innovation. Over 500 international investors and Israeli business owners had over 150 one-on-one meetings throughout the course of the event, discussing mutually beneficial investment opportunities. The Summit was a great success and the ICEJ is proud to partner with ARISE in bringing growth to the nation of Israel.
For the past year, Israel has been stuck in a baffling political impasse which may take three elections to resolve and currently hinges on whether Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu can and should remain in office while under criminal indictment. This is unchartered water for Israeli democracy, and a supreme challenge to the legacy of the nation’s longest-serving leader.

Netanyahu has been serving as caretaker prime minister since calling early elections in November 2018, but twice he has failed to form a new government following nationwide ballots in April and September. As we go to press, a dreaded third election is looming and can only be averted by major (even miraculous) compromise by the main parties involved. The whole dynamic shifted recently when Attorney General Avichai Mandelblit announced his decision to indict Netanyahu for fraud, breach of public trust, and bribery.

The charges capped a series of investigations that have hounded Netanyahu for several years now, and he quickly denounced them as a “coup” cooked up by the Left, the biased media, and crooked police elements. Netanyahu was still hoping to win immunity from prosecution in the Knesset and somehow stay in office. But that option may no longer be viable: Israeli law does not require a sitting prime minister under indictment to resign until he is duly convicted, but it also may bar him from receiving a mandate from the president to head a new government.

It will take time to play out, but Netanyahu’s ten-year reign as Israel’s premier may be ending. He has a decent chance to fend off the charges and make another comeback one day. But calls for his resignation are mounting, and even within his Likud party the jockeying to succeed him as chairman has begun.

The Bane of Bad Press

How did ‘Bibi’ Netanyahu get here? There are three criminal cases against him, one involving “improper gifts” (expensive cigars, pink champagne) he received from wealthy friends allegedly in return for favours. The others revolve around his efforts to get better press: the Yedioth/Israel Hayom affair and then the Bezeq/Walla case, which has the strongest evidence and carries the most serious charge of bribery.

It is generally a bad idea to criminalise anyone’s efforts to get better media coverage. But it also is clear that Netanyahu (and his family) had grown frustrated with the continual sniping against them in the Israeli press, and he was looking for ways to change that which he must now answer for in court.

These scandals arose amid an atmosphere in which Netanyahu was widely portrayed as being corrupted by power. The Israeli Left has been floundering for years due to the lack of a viable peace agenda with the Palestinians. Instead, they began pushing an anti-Bibi agenda which gained traction in the media, leading to the rise of Blue & White and his present predicament.

In retrospect, Benjamin Netanyahu has always faced unfair criticisms and hurdles during his rise and prolonged stay in power. Here are some potent (though often hidden) examples which help explain why he grew so weary of the negative press and why the Left is so hostile to him.

The Shadow of Yoni

Growing up, Benjamin Netanyahu and his older brother, Yonathan, were regarded as among the Likud’s ‘young princes’ — sons of the party’s founders destined for national leadership. But Yoni Netanyahu’s date with destiny was cut short when he fell in battle while commanding the epic Entebbe raid in July 1976.

“Yoni” instantly became a national hero – a bright, handsome and daring poet/warrior whose men would follow him anywhere. That romanticised view of Yoni Netanyahu remains undiminished by the years, as evidenced by the recent Netflix film “Follow Me”.

By all accounts, the lionisation of Yoni is well placed. However, it also meant young Bibi would always be dogged by unfair comparisons to him. From the start of his public career as a gifted
young Israeli diplomat at the UN, the ‘knock’ on Bibi was that Yoni would have been a truly great leader but the nation got stuck with second best. Sure, Benjamin Netanyahu has proven to be exceptionally articulate and highly competent in geo-strategic and economic affairs – indeed a generational statesman for Western democratic freedoms. But inside Israel, many still see him as standing in Yoni’s shadow, or even worse as exploiting Yoni’s popularity and tragic death to advance his own career. This has been an immensely unjust and painful hurdle for him to overcome.

The Shadow of Rabin
As Netanyahu rose within Likud, he became party chairman and Opposition leader in 1995, just as the nation became bitterly divided over the Oslo process. When prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Right-wing extremist, the Left blamed Bibi for fuelling the incitement that led to his death. The accusations were unfounded, and he has spent many years denying them. But the Left’s loathing of Netanyahu for Rabin’s death (and for killing Israel’s best chance for peace) is still lurking in the background of the present drive to oust him.

This particular ‘knock’ on Bibi runs deeper than most realise. Ben-Gurion built Israel as a model of European socialism. Like the kibbutzim, he envisioned the entire nation as an egalitarian society where everyone would share in its success, and seeking individual wealth was taboo. Ben-Gurion himself lived an austere lifestyle and rarely wore a tie.

Over recent decades, Israel has transformed into the innovative “Start-Up Nation” modelled more on American capitalism. Israelis are inventing cutting-edge paywalls and traffic apps and then cashing out in the billions—something which would have been frowned upon in the 1950s. Netanyahu has epitomised this socio-economic makeover by championing privatisation, free markets and Israel’s hi-tech wizardry.

With their dreams of peace and an ideal socialism gone, many on Israel’s Left now say they want to preserve Israel as a paradigm of pure, upright democracy. That is an honourable goal! But they contend Bibi has tarnished Israeli democracy with his corruption and constant manoeuvring to retain power. Whether those criticisms are valid will now be adjudged in a court of law. But he does have a legitimate complaint about being unfairly chased from office.

The legacy of Benjamin Netanyahu is still being written. But he already stands on rarefied grounds as an orator and statesman, and a master of the rough-and-tumble of Israeli politics.

Meanwhile, if the Israeli people want to offer the world an enviable model of democracy, then a lot more must change than simply ditching Netanyahu. And the nation needs to examine whether the current push to oust and disgrace him is really rooted in jealousies and unwarranted ‘knocks’ on a truly great leader.
CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW VICE PRESIDENT, NICOLE YODER

BY DR. JÜRGEN BÜHLER

I am thrilled to announce our senior leadership team will be expanded by the addition of our long-time staff member Nicole Yoder. Nicole will serve as Vice President of Aid & Aliyah.

Nicole has been faithfully serving our ICEJ AID department for over twenty years now, and has been Director of the department since 2006. In this vital role for our ministry, she has witnessed firsthand the challenges which many Israelis face throughout the Land. Through her leadership the ICEJ has provided caring, effective solutions for countless Israeli families, minority groups and individuals. This experience, combined with her language skills in Hebrew and Arabic and valuable relationships she developed with Israeli social workers, more than qualify her for this new task. Nicole has also recently completed a Master’s degree focused on the unique challenges of Ethiopian Jewish Aliyah, which even adds to her qualification.

Most importantly however, Nicole is woman who is dedicated to Jesus and his purposes with Israel and the Jewish people. She will thus be a great addition to our leadership team.

Nicole’s new duties also will include overseeing the ICEJ’s Aliyah efforts, which are managed day-to-day by our energetic Director of Aliyah, Howard Flower. She also will have oversight of our absorption activities for new immigrants, which includes the ICEJ Homecare program faithfully run by Corrie van Maanen.

The ICEJ board enthusiastically welcomed the decision of Nicole Yoder joining our other vice presidents currently serving with me in Jerusalem:

Barry Denison, Vice President of Jerusalem Operations
Mojmir Kallus, Vice President of International Affairs
David Parsons, Vice President & Senior Spokesman
David van der Walt, Vice President of Finances

A FUTURE AND A HOPE WITH ICEJ AID

BY NICOLE YODER, VP OF AID & ALIYAH

Through ICEJ Aid, Christians around the world bless Israel each and every day. Over the years the ICEJ has carried out social assistance projects throughout Israel every sector of the society. This ministry of comfort provides essential aid for Holocaust survivors and immigrants as well as helping Israel in times of crisis. In addition, ICEJ Aid reaches out to give disadvantaged Israelis A Future and a Hope.

What is A Future and a Hope? ICEJ helps Israelis struggling to reach a brighter future by providing practical assistance to those who need it most. Offering a future and a hope means providing educational enrichment, vocational training and other practical assistance to improve the quality of life for Israelis with long-term impact. This benevolent outreach is making a difference in the lives of the disadvantaged, children from broken families, youth at risk, women in crisis and minority communities, among others.

We are committed to helping “the least of these” in Israel. In addition to our support of the Jewish people, we assist the Arab, Druze and Bedouin minorities who comprise approximately one-fifth of Israel’s population. Today’s overwhelming social needs give us an unprecedented opportunity to comfort and bless this nation in the name of Christians around the world as an act of reconciliation and love.

This aid wouldn’t be possible without your help! Join us in providing basic needs, loving care, extra-curricular and educational activities, vocational training and other practical assistance through projects that bring a Future and a Hope to Israelis who need our help the most.

GIVING TUESDAY CAMPAIGN

BY ICEJ STAFF

This year the ICEJ HQ launched its first Giving Tuesday Campaign with the aim of providing help to Israeli families living near the Gaza border. The campaign was primarily social media based and was a great success! Thanks to you and numerous other faithful partners of the ICEJ, enough money was raised to provide two bomb shelters to the Sadot Silver Elementary School. The children at the school have 15 seconds or less to run for cover when sirens sound and now because of Christians around the world they can easily make it to safety at a moment’s notice. Thank you for your support!

Parents in Sadot Silver share their stories about life near Gaza

Both shelters have now been ordered. Join us on social media for the live installation event scheduled for early February.

Follow ICEJ @icejofficial

10 | JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020
ICEJ IMPACTING ISRAELI COMMUNITIES THROUGH SOCIAL BUSINESSES

BY KAYLA MUCHNIK

Many Israeli entrepreneurs have brilliant ideas, which is one reason Israel is often referred to as “the Startup Nation”. Yet those new to the business world often need assistance to develop an existing business or start a new one. For those living in low income, multi-cultural, and peripheral communities far from Israel’s center (such as the Negev region), employment opportunities and services are often limited. Therefore, for some, starting an independent business may be their best option.

The Negev makes up 60% of Israel’s land mass yet contains only 9% of the population. In less populated areas, entrepreneurial ventures are blossoming, boosting the economy and having a positive social impact in their communities.

Many of these new ventures are “social” businesses with two purposes: profit-making with the additional aim of creating bottom-up innovative solutions that meet social needs. We at the ICEJ are excited to support Israel’s national development goal for this region by providing a mentoring course for visionary women social entrepreneurs in the Negev, encouraging new social business ventures.

SNAP!: Special Needs And Photography, (sidebar) is one social business which has benefitted from ICEJ’s assistance. SNAP!’s CEO, Karin Grinberg had an idea for a business but no business experience or idea where to begin. Fortunately, an ICEJ-sponsored mentoring course provided Karin with the guidance to succeed.

“When I considered starting my own business, I thought, ‘How do I do insurance? And how do I make a business plan, advertise, and manage the business?’” she explained. Through this program, Karin was matched with a mentor to partner with her, encourage her, advise her, and even offer initial financial support to get the business off the ground.

With a few successful years behind her, Karin has now become a mentor in the program who helps others follow in her footsteps. With great support and help from the mentors in her life, Karin said, “It is amazing to wake up and work at something you love!”

Menucha Saitowitz, one of the mentor program coordinators and ICEJ partner, shared, “We are so grateful for Christians around the world helping us support women using their businesses to impact their communities.”

Please join us to support social businesses started by Israeli women which will not only impact the economy and build the nation, but also inspire and change lives!

SNAP!’s CEO, Karin (far right) and SNAP! mentor program coordinator Menucha (center left) with ICEJ VP AID and Aliyah Nicole Yoder and Jannie Tolhoek.

SNAP! SPECIAL NEEDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

A team of four young, compassionate entrepreneurs found a way to equip people with special needs. SNAP! (Special Needs And Photography), started by Karin Grinberg (CEO), Lior Weinberger, Maya Lefkowitz, and Idan Aslan, teaches students new technical skills, gives a sense of purpose, and instills confidence for a career in photography.

Many people with special needs are overlooked in government aid systems because they are not high or low functioning, yet they require assistance to actively participate in Israeli society. This sparked a brilliant idea in Karin Grinberg to birth a social business: “If we give them the right tools and help, they can do many things if given the opportunity.”

Now Karin and her team see how their social business impacts their students and community. Karin explained, “One of our graduates was recruited by his Rabbi to be a photographer for the events at the synagogue.” And one of their clients exclaimed, “It’s a social business, but our photos prove they are very professional. They do everything from their hearts.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.SNAPBR7.COM/EN
SMOOTHING THE WAY FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS

ICEJ IMPACTING LIVES AT YE’ELIM ABSORPTION CENTER IN BEERSHEVA

BY KAYLA MUCHNIK

For Jewish families making Aliyah (immigrating) to Israel, landing at Ben Gurion Airport and receiving their Israeli identity cards marks the beginning, rather than the end, of a new journey. Smoothing the way for these new arrivals means helping them learn the language, find suitable employment and understand how daily life in Israel works.

Although Olim (new immigrants) face many challenges in their new lives, gainful employment is sometimes the greatest hurdle. Among the many integration projects funded by ICEJ AID over the years, vocational training and professional re-certification within Israel are vital, paving the way to economic independence for families and their successful integration in the Land.

ICEJ AID staff recently visited the Ye’elim Absorption Center in Beersheva, to meet newly arrived immigrants and bless them with household items. Our staff also spoke with several recent recipients of vocational assistance from ICEJ.

Computer Programmer Gets a Restart

Denise, a computer programmer from Russia, made Aliyah with his wife and young son last year. Employment as a programmer with an Israeli company required a whole new system and language. Fortunately, Denise had the opportunity to study Hebrew, English and computer programming systems through an ICEJ Aid-sponsored vocational program.

Today, equipped with fluency in both languages and new Israel-certification, Denise is ready to apply for programming jobs. He is thankful to the ICEJ for the opportunity to study, for teachers who eased his way, as well as for children’s programs which taught his little boy Hebrew and other essential skills. Laughing to himself, Denise said, “My little boy can speak even better Hebrew than me.”

ICEJ helps Civil Engineer Build a New Life

We also met Pablo from Venezuela who needed to relearn his civil engineering skills in a completely different language. Accepted to an accelerated Hebrew and vocational training program, Pablo has worked hard to master Hebrew and relearn the engineering terms and systems here in Israel.

“Making Aliyah is not easy, especially at my age of 52”, Pablo explained. “But because the situation in Venezuela became worse, we realized it is better for us to live here in Israel.” We rejoiced with him when he shared some good news: “Thank God, I got two job offers, and today I have to decide and give an answer to the companies”, smiled Pablo.

Morris Korim, Director of the Ye’elim Absorption Center, expressed his heart-felt gratitude towards the Christian Embassy: “You brought presents to our Olim today, but the biggest gift is your presence….The best present is our long lasting partnership with the ICEJ and Christian friends around the world. We appreciate your support that has been for the Aliyah and integration of new arrivals to Israel. We believe this partnership of 25 years gives us the strength to continue on.”

We rejoice with Denise, Pablo and many others who have courageously uprooted their lives to start afresh in Israel with a new language, culture, land, people, career, and way of life. Thank you for joining us in helping Jewish families not only make it home to Israel, but also to thrive here!

TO DONATE TO THIS VERY WORTHY AND EVEN PROPHETIC CAUSE, VISIT: ICEJ.ORG/AID

Therefore say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.”’

– Ezekiel 11:17 –
Palestinian terrorists in Gaza use an insidious, yet effective, strategy to traumatise Israeli civilians: They target towns in the border region with rocket fire in the morning, when children are on their way to school. Both the shrill warning sirens and explosions of the defensive missiles, induce an incredible amount of fear in the hearts of children. Over the past five years, almost all of the children in the Eshkol region bordering the Gaza strip have received some kind of support or treatment to help them overcome their trauma.

In mid-September, ICEJ-Aid Director Nicole Yoder visited the Eshkol Resilience Centre. This centre, which specialises in trauma therapy and strengthening the psychological resilience of children and their families, was only equipped with an outside shelter which could not be reached quickly. In case of a missile attack, the children and their parents had to just lie flat on the floor and protect their head with their hands.

In response, the ICEJ sponsored the construction of a protective room inside the centre. One of the therapists explained, “You can’t help people with trauma if they don’t feel safe when they come for help.” The director of the center expressed, “Thank you for helping with the basics so that we can go to a shelter and not be harmed.”

The head of security in the Sha’ar HaNegev region, who is a father of three children, stated: “We don’t really have a choice. If we move, they’ll just come closer and take more of the land and we won’t be safer somewhere else. You get used to the reality on the ground. Kids are born into it.” He added: “When the days are ‘normal’ (without alarm) you can practice where to go and what to do when an alarm sounds. That enables children to feel confident and helps them to be able to leave the house.” In the long run the head of security holds on to another hope: “God willing, there should be peace. Thank you for helping us develop and to succeed to raise our children peacefully.”

Please help us strengthen the resilience of Israeli children and adults who live in areas under attack by offering trauma therapy to those affected: icej.org/aid/israel_in_crisis
FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2019 • LOOKING BACK

WHY CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE THE FEAST
BY DR JÜRGEN BÜHLER, ICEJ PRESIDENT

The presence of believers from around the world in Jerusalem at Sukkot is a great prophetic sign of the times in which we live. It is a powerful foreshadowing of even more glorious days ahead.

In 1979, as Merv and Merla Watson planned the first Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem, they were uncertain about exactly how Gentiles should celebrate this biblical feast, so they asked the advice of a senior rabbi in Israel. After receiving his practical guidance, they were just about to leave when the rabbi called them back.

“Mr and Mrs Watson”, he said. “That you, as Gentiles, came here to ask me how to celebrate Sukkot is quite unusual. Our prophets declare that in the Messianic times, all Gentiles will come to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast with us. When you asked me today how to celebrate Sukkot, I am hearing the footsteps of Messiah, that he is coming.”

And this is what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about. The ICEJ has been privileged to organise this incredibly unique event for 40 years now. And it is indeed not just another Christian conference, but a prophetic declaration to Israel and the Church that Messiah is coming soon. In the end, it is all about Jesus. It is not about us, nor even about Israel, but about the returning King.

And so, this Feast of Tabernacles 2020, ICEJ “Prepares the Way” for the return of Jesus, the King above all kings, to His city: Jerusalem.

FEAST 2019 TESTIMONY: LINDA FRANCISCO
BY KAYLA MUCHNIK

During the Feast of Tabernacles 2019, we were honored to meet Linda Francisco from the Philippines. Linda connected with the ICEJ in 1993, which was a miracle because no one told her about the ICEJ and she didn’t know anything about God’s heart for Israel. She put it simply, “The Lord just put it in my heart to come to Israel.”

After several years of traveling to Jerusalem for the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles, Linda realized her own people longed to celebrate the Feast, yet they could not afford to travel to Israel. Therefore, God put it on her heart to make a “taste” of the Feast of Tabernacles in her city of Cebu, Philippines. She enjoyed helping her people celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles and recounted many miracles as the whole event came together. After a couple years of these “Tastes” in the Philippines Linda said, “I knew it wasn’t the same, because the Feast should be celebrated in Jerusalem!”

In response, Linda decided to bring 22 of her family members with her up to Jerusalem for ICEJ’s Feast of Tabernacles! It was beautiful for her to see the generations of her family praying together for Israel, including her eight-year-old grandchild. Linda went from not knowing anything about God’s heart for Israel to becoming a powerful advocate for Israel in the Philippines, and to her own family. She was overjoyed to see her heart’s desire come true with most of her family celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles together in God’s city of Jerusalem.

Linda’s faithfulness to stand with Israel has been rewarded in amazing ways. One extraordinary miracle Linda shared was in March 2019 she was diagnosed with stage four ovarian cancer, but as she sat with us in the Pais Arena she testified, “In May, God healed me! I am completely healed!” After overcoming cancer and the recent loss of her husband of 23 years, Linda still knows she has a deep calling from the Lord to share the biblical view of Israel and the Jewish people. Linda explained, “Just before I came here to Israel, when I was worshipping, God told me that the standard needs to be raised. We need to be connected to Israel. I would like to continue to be an advocate for Israel and sharing this importance.”

We praise God for how He has moved in Linda’s life and the many lives that He impacted at the Feast of Tabernacles!
For 2000 years, the stones of antisemitism blocked the path between Jews and Christians. How do we overcome that?

Forty years ago, Christians from 32 nations gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles just as the last national embassies were abandoning the city. In response, these Christians stepped out and offered a hand of friendship and solidarity to Israel and the Jewish people. From this pivotal moment, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was born.

Today, we continue to follow the path of those Christians who have gone before us. Isaiah spoke of a ministry of comfort and a prophetic work to prepare a highway for the Lord – a work of removing the stones and obstacles which have, in the past, separated Jews and Christians.

The prophet Isaiah also foretold of a day when a highway would connect Egypt and Assyria with Israel – and become a blessing in the midst of the earth. Today, we see believers from these nations coming together; pages of the Bible coming to life before our very eyes. The ancient division between Arab and Jew is being reconciled.

"Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." - Isaiah 40:4-5

At the Feast of Tabernacles 2020, the ICEJ will be marking 40 years of comforting and blessing Israel and working toward reconciliation between the Jewish people and the Gentile nations, especially in the Arab world.

We invite you to come up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with us. Come clear the path; remove every hindrance between you and an encounter with the God of Israel.

Experience another side of the Feast by serving on a Feast Team! Every year, Christians come from around the world to serve for 10 to 28 days on our 20+ teams! Check out team descriptions at feast.icej.org/team to find the ideal place for your skills and talents; you never know where your heart and the Spirit might lead!
In November, ICEJ vice presidents Barry Denison and Nicole Yoder were special guests at a gala dinner in Akko hosted by Israel’s relatively new OFEK Aliyah agency held to mark “Aliyah Day”.

The event was hosted by OFEK, a not-for-profit NGO set up by the Israeli government to work alongside the Jewish Agency to promote and facilitate Aliyah. It receives most of its funding from the Israeli government and is now the primary organisation assisting Jewish people from most regions around the world to make Aliyah (immigrate) to Israel.

The ICEJ first began working with OFEK three years ago, just after its formation in 2016 as a response to the Ukraine crisis and then went on to help with the wave of French Aliyah, explained ICEJ Aliyah Director Howard Flower. “In Russia we have been working with OFEK Israel for three years on the ground and in Belarus two years”.

“On Aliyah Day we honour the immigrants to Israel through the generations – the people who left everything and immigrated to Israel,” Minister of Immigration and Absorption Yoav Galant told the gathering. “The bravery, determination and unique contribution of each one is felt very well in all aspects of life in the country... that every Jew around the world should see his home and his future in the State of Israel, even if his current place of residence is different.”

According to Howard Flower, “Last summer Barry Denison met the OFEK director at one of our Aliyah seminars in Finland, and he was moved to tears by our work. We called that one seminar ‘Aliyah super weekend’ because in addition to the normal Aliyah workshops, we also brought a group of Jewish Olim through Finland to Israel.”

Denison also spoke at the event and shared about the ICEJ’s many Aliyah efforts over the past 40 years as well as our biblical and humanitarian motives for engaging in this work. “As a Christian, it is always a privilege to speak and be a voice representing the global church to the Jewish people at their own event.”

As OFEK continues to take over many of the Jewish Agency’s activities, ICEJ will continue to develop this key partnership here in the land of Israel.
ICEJ ALIYAH SEMINARS HELPING FULFILL PROPHECY

BY AARON HECHT

“Up, up! Flee from the Land of the North,” says the Lord. Zechariah 2:6

Since its founding in 1980, the ICEJ has assisted more than 150,000 Jews to make the journey home to Israel. However, there are Jewish communities in many countries with limited access to information on the process of Aliyah. There are as many as one million Jewish people in Central Asia and Russian Far East alone, with most of them having little or no connection to a wider Jewish community.

From the North

For this reason, the ICEJ is hosting Aliyah Seminars, in cooperation with OFEK, as “fishing trips” to try and meet these scattered remnants and bring them home to Israel. One such seminar is scheduled for early 2020 in the city of Alma Ata (Apple Mountain) in Kazakhstan.

In the meantime, we continue building our relationship with Bilana Shakhar, the Jewish Agency director for the Former Soviet Union (FSU.) According to Shakhar, nearly 7,000 Jewish people will make Aliyah to Israel in 2019, from the greater Moscow metropolitan area alone. This number represents nearly half of all Olim (immigrants) to Israel from Russia and is greater than the number that will immigrate from all of Western Europe or the Americas.

From the West

Another major focus of ICEJ’s Aliyah outreach is in Germany. Some might be surprised to learn that Germany has a very large Jewish population, including several thousand Jewish people who moved there from the former Soviet Union in the 1990s.

However, in recent years, these rebuilt communities have been hit by a wave of renewed antisemitism, including a shocking attack on a synagogue in the city of Halle during Yom Kippur services just a few months ago. This attack followed years of increasingly frightening harassment of Jewish people in Germany and has left many German Jews looking at the possibility of leaving the country for good.

“Slowly, one considers whether there might not also be other places on our planet where we Jews could live better,” Max Privorozki, the chairman of the Halle Jewish community who was in the synagogue which was attacked on 7 October, 2018, told the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper. “We are observing with unease that antisemitism is becoming increasingly blatant in Germany at great speed. It is no longer embarrassing to openly present oneself as an antisemite.”

ICEJ is looking for ways to assist Jewish people like Max Privorozki fulfill their goal of making Aliyah. In cooperation with OFEK, ICEJ will conduct informational seminars in Germany in the coming months, starting with the city of Dusseldorf. As ICEJ Aliyah Director Howard Flower explained, “This new initiative is the next step our ‘Aliyah from the West’ program.”

Holocaust Memorial in the heart of the city of Berlin, Germany

Swastica symbol carved on a stone slab at the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin

This new CD will soon be available through ICEJstore.com.
In the 1940’s the German town of Bad Gandersheim housed Adolf Hitler’s special training center for his S.S. officers and troops. This past November, on the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, around 800 people gathered in that same building to celebrate Israel Day with the ICEJ.

In this building, which is now the “Glaubenszentrum” Bible school, ICEJ-Germany director Gottfried Bühler, welcomed attendees: “In the past, the Nazis were at this site, but today people from Israel sit here. God has won, Israel has won and by being present here today, you are making a stand for solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people!”

Calev Myers, renowned Israeli lawyer and founder of the Israeli organization ARISE (Alliance to Reinforce Israel’s Security & Economy), reminded the audience that the God of Israel was still doing miracles today: In the Israeli economy, for security challenges, and on an ecological level. He shared about innovative Israeli technologies, which have become a blessing all over the world and discussed dangers of the BDS Movement (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions), which harm the Palestinians, putting their well-paid jobs in Israeli companies in the West Bank in jeopardy.

The significance of this event was highlighted when Dariel Myers, Calev’s daughter, closed the meeting with an emotional rendition of Hatikvah, Israel’s national anthem. Myers explained: “As the grandson of a German Jewish family who survived the Holocaust, it is very moving for me to speak, and my daughter to sing, in this place once intended for such evil purposes. Our presence here today tells me that ‘We Won!’ Am Israel Chai (the people of Israel live!”

STUTTGART: ISRAEL’S FRIENDS RALLY FOR JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY

Amid growing antisemitism in Germany, ICEJ-Germany called Christians to the streets of Stuttgart to publicly demonstrate support for the Jews in Germany as well as for the State of Israel. In response, more than 600 friends of Israel gathered on the central square in Stuttgart, Southern Germany.

Gottfried Bühler, National Director of ICEJ-Germany, announced in his opening speech that a clear pro-Israel policy of the German Federal Government and good reporting by the German media “would deprive antisemitism of its breeding ground.” Addressing the members of the Jewish community present, he said: “You can count on us! We love you, that’s why we are here!”
REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN EUROPE: UNITING THE EAST AND THE WEST

BY CAMILLE TROC

Last November, ICEJ Albania and Director Gentjan Dervishaj hosted ICEJ’s regional conference in Tirana, Albania, which brought together representatives from fifteen European nations. The location was selected to highlight an important chapter of Albania’s history; a chapter which is also significant for the Jewish people.

It all started with King Zogu I, the sovereign leader over Albania during the time of the Holocaust, who decided to grant passports to Jews from neighboring countries. He opened the borders of Albania to all Jewish refugees allowing them to flee the persecutions of Nazi Germany. Even with the invasion of the Nazis in Albania, the local, mostly Muslim population, hid the Jews in their homes and refused to turn them in. There were about 200 Jews in Albania at the outbreak of World War II but more than 2,000 when it ended. Today, many Albanians are recognized as “Righteous Among the Nations” not only by the Jewish people but also by God, who will most certainly release a special blessing over a country which did not hesitate to protect and save His people.

A day before the conference, we were invited for a private audience by the Crowne Prince of Albania, Leka II, who is none other than King Zogu’s grandson! As a Christian, Prince Leka would like to strengthen the moral fabric of this young society and is open to cooperate with the ICEJ in the field of education.

On the eve of the regional conference, we had the pleasure of welcoming the ambassadors of the EU, France, Hungary, Serbia and Sweden. Pastors from all around the country also attended the event, hence confirming the unity of the Church in Albania. Fifteen countries were represented at the conference: Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, the UK, and Israel.

The purpose of the conference was to build strong collaboration between the European countries of the East and West. For three days, our ICEJ leaders gathered together for fellowship, to share experiences and challenges, and to pray. Many ideas were discussed and new media platforms were introduced in order to build a network of strong and healthy branches. We believe effective communication and simple coordination will produce much fruit. All the leaders went back home after an inspiring weekend, encouraged and expectant to see God move in Europe.

ICEJ VP of International Affairs Mojmir Kallus and team was invited to the residence of the Crowne Prince of Albania, Leka II.

Earthquake in Albania: Albania was hit November 26th, 2019 with a 6.4 magnitude earthquake. ICEJ Albania Director Gentjan Dervishaj called on Christians around the world to lift up his nation in prayer: “We ask that all of the ICEJ friends around the world will pray for the nation and the people of Albania as well as for the government.”

ICEJ INTERNATIONAL
NEW ICEJ BRANCH OPENED IN UKRAINE
BY MOJMIR KALLUS, VP OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

A
fter one year of preparation, we were thrilled to officially open a branch of the ICEJ in Ukraine. Although Ukraine continues to grapple with the legacy of its Communist and Fascist past and is torn by war in the east, the more than 3.5 million Evangelical believers in the country offer great potential for future growth and support for Israel. The main task of this new branch will be to educate the church about Israel and the connection between the Jewish people and the nations.

Branch leadership will continue the work which Ukrainian Christians started more than ten years ago. Repentance meetings for antisemitism were held in different cities where Jews had been persecuted, and in Kiev, the capital city, a National Day of Prayer for the peace of Jerusalem was held for several years, with up to 1,000 people from different denominations coming together. It has been resolved that the new branch will renew the prayer initiative under the banner of the ICEJ.

From the beginning, the Kiev Jewish Messianic Community has been a key player in all these activities, and the Community’s leader, Pastor Boris Grisenko, joined the Board of ICEJ-Ukraine, together with representatives of other large Evangelical denominations. At the branch opening, Pastor Grisenko spoke on the subject of “Israel and the Church”, together with Vitaliy Kozubovskiy, senior pastor of the largest Baptist church, and Mojmir Kallus, ICEJ VP for International Affairs.

Please pray for ICEJ-Ukraine’s National Director Valeriy Alymov and his team. The fields in Ukraine are ready for harvest, so may the Lord send the laborers.

In October, a group of over 120 pastors from Russia visited Israel. They were received at the Knesset and met with ICEJ leadership.

On a two-week speaking tour in East Africa, ICEJ Vice President David Parsons was received by the President of Tanzania, the honorable John Pombe Magufuli, in his hometown of Chato, on Lake Victoria.

Parsons thanked President Magufuli for restoring his nation’s relations with Israel and for voting with Israel more at the United Nations. He also directed the President’s attention to Isaiah 60:10 and encouraged him to show additional favor to Israel by moving Tanzania’s new embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, adding that the Lord was promising “ten years of the fatted calf” if he would do so.

President Magufuli thanked Rev. Parsons for his visit to his country and hometown, gave a personal offering for Israel to the ICEJ, and asked Parsons to pray for his elderly mother Susanna (pictured in wheelchair).
CEJ’s Aliyah Director Howard Flower shared this verse with ICEJ Homecare and said, “The Aliyah from the North began to increase some 10 years ago. It has continued to increase and now it’s most active. The winds of Aliyah from the East, South and West have grown calm for now. But the Aliyah from the North is what God is doing today.”

Happy New Year! Beginning each year with a renewed commitment to prayer is a pattern laid out by the Lord in Exodus 40. As the chapter opens, the Lord commands Moses to set up the Tabernacle of meeting on the first day of the first month, as a place of prayer and communion with God. The tent was to be a place of ministry, where the High Priest and Levites would perform the required sacrifices and stand in the gap for the People of Israel.

Homecare is privileged to have ongoing contact with many of these immigrants from the North, and throughout 2019 it brought both blessings and challenges in our work. One challenge was witnessing the suffering of one dear lady each week. In the Former Soviet Union, she was involved in scientific research, but in her senior years she was bedbound and very lonely. She often said to ICEJ Homecare nurse Corrie Van Maanen, “My week goes from Wednesday to Wednesday because then you are coming.” Just after she turned 90, she passed away.

A blessing we were able to participate in was the Bar Mitzvah of the grandson of a lady who has enjoyed the help of Homecare for many years. “The fact that I was invited was very special, because the lady’s son and grandchildren have embraced the ultra-orthodox lifestyle,” explained Corrie. The ultra-orthodox is a sector of Judaism not usually accepting of Christians. However, this family welcomed Corrie with love to their family gathering because of the relationships built over the years.

Throughout 2019, there were answers to prayer from the God of Israel who does the impossible. The voice of a single mother, living in an impoverished area of Tel Aviv whom Homecare is helping monthly, was filled with disappointment and despair. She works hard but cannot make ends meet and had been eagerly waiting for a ‘subsidized living’ apartment. She was told there would be further delays. “When she stopped talking,” said Corrie, “I simply said that we will pray. Two weeks later, she excitedly said that it wasn’t possible, but God had done it. She has a new ‘subsidized living’ apartment!”

Thanks to your faithful giving and prayers, Homecare had a great year in 2019 and we look forward to this new year of 2020 to continue caring for those who have made Israel their home!

To sign up for the ISAIAH 62 PRAYER INITIATIVE and PRAYERWAVE at WWW.ICEJ.ORG/ISAIAH62 • WWW.ICEJPRAYERWAVE.COM

LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD
BY MAXINE CARLILL, ICEJ HOMECARE

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.

REMEMBER, OBSERVE, REJOICE BY PETRA VAN DER ZANDE

Available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Chinese

This book gives background information on how the festivals and events were celebrated in biblical times, and how it is done today, in the re-born State of Israel. The guide will help to gain more respect and appreciation for the biblical festivals, the Jewish holidays, and the Word of God.

THE BEAUTY OF THE HEBREW LANGUAGE

BY NATHALIE BLACKHAM

Available in English, French, German

Nathalie’s interest in Israel started in 1997 when she began to intensively study and investigate the Hebraic roots of the Church. This led her to teach and explain the significance and wonders of the Hebrew letters by way of television and conferences.

JUST LOVE

BY R.T. KENDALL

Kendall takes 1st Corinthians chapter 13 and shows how it should permeate every aspect of our life. He explains to us what is meant by love, a word stolen from its true meaning by our society, and how to practice it in our church, home and workplace. The central thesis of the book is that we have to show a unity of spirit in the church in order to be effective in the world, but one that is not based on compromising God’s word.

THE HIDDEN ROOT CAUSES OF THE HOLOCAUST

BY COLONEL JOHN T. SOMERVILLE USMC (RET.)

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

BELIEVING GOD

BY R.T. KENDALL

Hebrews 11 is a description of people who persisted in faith. With one or two exceptions (as Abel, verse 4) Hebrews does not describe saving faith but persistent faith. Saving faith does not guarantee our inheritance; persistent faith does. Saving faith guarantees Heaven; persistent faith results in seeing God do in your life what he did in the lives of those described in Hebrews 11.

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

Go to: ICEJSTORE.COM and use the discount code: ICEJ2020WFJ – The special 10% discount for your purchases at Embassy Resources is valid throughout 2020.
SEEDS IN THE WIND by Rick Wienecke

In the 1970’s, Rick’s life style leads him into a place of desperation where he begins searching for God. Rick becomes fascinated with the birthing of Israel as a nation only three years after the Holocaust. Feeling strongly drawn to Israel, Rick decides to work on a Kibbutz for six months. The Lord attaches him to the Jewish people, the Land of Israel and to the Jewish Messiah Jesus. Rick’s God-given language through sculpting grows and develops alongside these other points of relationship.

A DIALOGUE OF SUFFERING by Rick Wienecke

A Dialogue of Suffering Between the Crucifixion and the Holocaust is a curriculum designed to be used for personal use or small study groups. This book also contains many pictures of the Fountain of Tears.

FROM ENGLISH TO HEBREW

This book is intended for English speakers who wish to learn how to read in Hebrew, quickly and with ease. It should be understood that in the Hebrew language the vowels are not part of the alphabet. In Hebrew there are all kinds of signs, small lines, and punctuation that are added to letters in order to show the reader how the word should be read.

THE NEW JERUSALEM - ANOINTING OIL Bridal Garden, Rose of Sharon • 10ML

This premium anointing oil has been hand crafted in Israel using extra virgin olive oil made from olive trees around Jerusalem. It has been scented and mixed according to ancient Hebrew recipes by using biblical essential oils and fragrances sourced from Middle and Far East. This bottle of anointing oil has been dedicated to God and soaked in prayer and it was been officially tested for quality.
MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ICEJ
AT FEAST 2020
Register today at feast.icej.org

FEAST of TABERNACLES
PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

PREPARE the way
2 - 7 OCTOBER 2020

ICEJ
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

Come to Feast 2020 and celebrate forty years of ICEJ Preparing the Way in Israel!