A JUBILEE YEAR FOR
JERUSALEM

HISTORIC ETHIOPIAN ALIYAH
The Rescue Mission of Ethiopian Jewry Continues!
Dear friends,

This is a year of many anniversaries. Exactly one hundred years ago, in 1917, Great Britain issued the Balfour Declaration, laying an important foundation stone for the modern state of Israel. With this decree, the British government expressed their support for “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.” That same week, Jerusalem was liberated by British troops under General Edmund Allenby, ending almost 1300 years of Islamic rule over the city.

It also has been seventy years since the summer of 1947 when the ship “Exodus,” carrying some 4500 Jewish refugees, left port in France on a sea voyage which would capture the attention of the entire world. The tragic odyssey of the ship and its desperate passengers helped to convince the United Nations to vote for creating an independent Jewish state in parts of Mandatory Palestine that November. Of course, the State of Israel was declared the following year.

Finally, exactly fifty years after General Allenby entered Jerusalem, IDF forces reunited the city under Israeli sovereignty during the Six Day War of June 1967.

All these anniversaries are heralds of the same message: “He who scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock.” (Jeremiah 31:10) “The time to favour Zion” has indeed come! (Psalm 102:13) One does not need to be a prophecy expert to recognise that these ancient divine promises are being fulfilled right before our very eyes today. This year is thus a unique opportunity to look back on what the Lord has done to give thanks for His faithfulness. At the same time, it is a time to look to the future and expect God to accomplish even greater things with Israel and the nations in the days ahead.

It is quite remarkable that in 2017, exactly 50 years after Jerusalem’s reunification, another historic event might occur – the return of the first national embassies back to Jerusalem. But our hopes are that this coming Jubilee season also will usher in the spiritual restoration of Israel which was prophesied by so many of the Hebrew prophets long ago, so that out of Zion the blessings of God will flow to the ends of the earth.

Now, this will not go unopposed. Therefore, our prayers and support for Israel are needed today more than ever before. We are all living in exciting times, indeed.

Let us all join hands and pray and work until He comes!

In Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
President
ICEJ Executive Director

Cover Photo:
City of Jerusalem at sunrise.

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A JUBILEE YEAR FOR JERUSALEM

The time to favour Zion has come!

BY DAVID PARSONS
Fifty years removed, it is hard for us to imagine today the painful division of Jerusalem between 1948 and 1967. Israel’s capital city is now so bustling and alive. But old-timers will tell you that life was extremely difficult here during those dismal nineteen years when the city was torn between Israel and the Jordanians.

Local Jewish residents were certainly relieved in 1948 when the siege on western Jerusalem was lifted by the arrival of aid convoys along the “Burma Road.” But for the next two decades, the Jewish half of the city remained precariously surrounded by Arab forces on three sides, with a narrow corridor through the Jerusalem hills linking them to the rest of the country. They still faced the threat of sniper fire by Jordanian troops perched on the Old City walls. Arab artillery batteries with commanding views ringed the hilltops around the Jewish side of town. Windows remained boarded up in many homes and businesses. Some neighbourhoods still had curfews at night.

Perhaps the greatest hardship for the city’s Jewish population was being separated from the Old City and Western Wall. The Jewish Quarter had been emptied at gunpoint during the fighting in 1948. Jewish graves were desecrated, and synagogues destroyed. Arab squatters built a hovel of tin shacks in front of the Western Wall. A long line of bunkers, concrete walls, minefields, and barbed wire fences were strewn along no-man’s land, cutting the city in half. The main road to Jaffa Gate dead-ended into a war zone.

Jerusalem’s ancient Christian communities also faced abuses under Jordanian rule. The Old City and Bethlehem were only opened to Christian visitors at Christmas and Easter. Christians could not buy properties and church-run schools were forced to teach the Koran. Because of these repressive policies, half of the 25,000 Arab Christians in east Jerusalem abandoned the city between 1949 and June 1967.

Then came the Six Day War, when Israeli forces scored a surprisingly swift and complete victory over five Arab armies, and liberated the beloved city of Jerusalem. After two decades of division, isolation and neglect, a reunited Jerusalem was free to grow and prosper once more.

This year, the Israeli people will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the reunification of the city, an incredible moment immortalized in the song “Jerusalem of Gold.” It is also one hundred years since British General Edmund Allenby liberated the city from another Muslim ruler – the Ottoman.
Turks. These two major milestones in the history of modern Jerusalem attest that there is a Jubilee cycle operating over the city of God, propelling it forward into its ultimate destiny in Him.

The Bible describes the Jubilee as a special time every fifty years when the Land of Israel was to be freed from all leases and encumbrances, and all its inhabitants set free from debts and servitudes. According to the commands given in Leviticus chapter 25, all lands were to revert to their original owners. Now down through the centuries, Israel was rarely able to keep all the requirements of the Jubilee. But today, we can see that God Himself still works in Jubilee cycles. This means that if Jerusalem experienced a dramatic liberation one hundred years ago, and another fifty years ago, we can expect yet another amazing release for the city this very year of 2017. God is slowly but surely rolling back the forces that would continue Gentile rule over Jerusalem, so that the city can finally reach its destiny back in Jewish hands. That destiny is to be the throne of Messiah and a “house of prayer for all nations” (Isaiah 56:7, Luke 19:46; see also Psalm 2:6, Isaiah 2:3, Isaiah 24:23, and Revelation 14:1).

One key passage of Scripture in this regard is Psalm 102, which declares that there is an appointed time of divine favour on Zion. In verse 16, the psalmist proclaims: “For the Lord shall build up Zion; He shall appear in His glory.” Two verses later, we are told this was written “for the generation to come;” in the original Hebrew it reads dor achoron, or “last generation”. So this Psalm is referring to the restoration of Israel in the last days, and specifically to the Jewish return to Jerusalem.

The name Zion appears some 170 times in the Bible and generally refers to Jerusalem. But the Hebrew word tzion means a “burnt or parched place” and thus it points more specifically to Mt. Zion, where the Temple and altar of sacrifice stood. From their very first mentions in Scripture (Genesis 14:18 and 22:2), this city and this specific mountain are always tied to God’s redemptive purposes. Eventually, the Lord placed His shekinah presence there, and later gave His life as a ransom for sin on this very mountain.

Today, the Lord is once again building up Zion for redemptive purposes. But He does this through the Jewish people. In Scripture, they are identified as the “builders” of Jerusalem. We can glean this from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, as well as from the powerful reference in Psalm 118:22. Likewise, Psalm 147:2 says that the Lord builds up Jerusalem by “gathering together the outcasts of Israel.” This is a work He is very “zealous over” (Zechariah 1:14, 8:2).

Ultimately, we know that “the Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob…” (Romans 11:26; see also Psalm 14:7, Psalm 53:6 and Isaiah 59:20, 21). So in the same place where they once rejected their Messiah they will now receive Him as King.

No doubt, this is why there is such an intense diplomatic battle over the fate of Jerusalem, but at heart it is a spiritual battle. New US President Donald Trump has expressed a desire to move the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to the Israeli capital. Many Arab and Islamic figures are enraged and threatening a violent response. But in a year of Jubilee, we can pray for and expect divine favour, so that the entire city will revert to its original owners and be released into the purposes of God. 🙏
In mid-February, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Washington DC to meet with senior US officials including newly elected President Donald J. Trump. Many issues were discussed, including Iran and the perennial conflict with the Palestinians. President Trump’s campaign promise to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem was on the agenda, but progress is slow due to political and diplomatic challenges.

Please pray the ‘reset’ in relations between Israel and the United States under the new Administration in Washington will bear much good and lasting fruit for Israel, both in strategic, economic and diplomatic terms. Pray the US will lead a large group of nations in returning their embassies to Jerusalem this year. (Isaiah 62:1-7; Micah 4:1-2)

Israel is also enjoying a renaissance in its relations with several African countries which were strong in the early 1950’s and 60’s. Following Israel’s victories in the 1967 and 1973 wars, defeated Arab governments put pressure on African countries to sever these ties, but in recent years things have begun to turn around again.

Pray with us for Israel’s relations with the many African nations who express a desire to re-connect and expand ties with Israel. Pray the hearts of African leaders are moved to open new doors for Israel and to strengthen Christian support for Israel in those nations. (Psalm 22:28)

The endless conflict in Syria poses a growing threat to Israel’s safety, such as an increased Iranian military presence on Israel’s northern border and greater threat from the Lebanese Shi’ite terror militia Hezbollah. Sunni jihadist groups, including ISIS, have also targeted Israel from the north and more recently in the south, from Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula.

Pray for Israel’s security, both in the south and on the Golan Heights in the north, an area that borders with war-torn Syria; that the threat posed by ISIS and other Islamist militias would continue to be held at bay. (Psalm 94:22)

Pray for Arab and Islamic nations to cooperate more closely with Israel for their own benefit, and to accept Israel in the region. (Isaiah 19:23-25)

Reports continue to surface in neighboring Muslim nations of large numbers of people receiving the Gospel, as massive disruptions caused by wars and environmental degradation and social/economic dislocation lead them to question their traditional understandings.

Pray for the move of the Holy Spirit that is being reported throughout the Middle East, that multitudes living in darkness and despair would come to find hope and peace in Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 49:6-9)

Lastly, pray for both the physical and spiritual restoration of Jerusalem, and bless the Body of Messiah in Israel. (Ezekiel 36:24-36; Jeremiah 31; Hosea 6:1-2; Galatians 6:10)

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

1. Join as an individual prayer warrior at: www.icej.org/isaiah62
2. Begin an Isaiah 62 prayer group in your community.
3. Join us in fasting and praying on behalf of Israel every month.
Christian leaders from 18 countries attend Envision Conference to enhance their ministry

We encourage everyone to visit Israel and study the richness of history encompassed in this land and its people. More importantly, we encourage every believer to go much deeper in their journey of discovery, all the while holding the Word of God tightly in their hand.

To provide Christian leaders an opportunity to go far beyond what any tour can offer, the ICEJ initiated the annual Envision Conference for Pastors, held at the beginning of each year. This January, leaders of churches and ministries from around the world once again gathered in Jerusalem for an intensive and inspiring time of growth.

Dr. Jürgen Bühler, the President of the ICEJ, welcomed the attendees with a powerful message of hope, pointing to the goodness and sovereignty of God through his testimony of healing. Each day brought together an array of speakers, including local pastors of both Jewish and Arab backgrounds, to teach, answer questions and connect with attendees from around the world.

“We have been so blessed by the sound Biblical teachings delivered here,” said Jon Smith, a pastor from New Orleans in the USA, who came to Envision with his wife Elizabeth and seven leaders from their church.

“Now we can put faces to the stories we’ve heard,” added Elizabeth, also a pastor. “So we ask, God, how can we help? What do You want us to do? People are eager to give support to what they understand. So, we want to bring these teachings back to our church!”

Pastor Anna Chen was very encouraged by the conference and was looking forward to sharing what she learned with other Chinese believers who, as she mentioned, share the same vision as the ICEJ. “We want to bring unity among believers, also in their support of Israel. We need [this conference] to take this vision further! Whatever we learn, will return to this land with blessing.”

The leaders were excited to network with likeminded individuals from other countries in attendance, and share valuable insight with one another following some unique features of the program. One of these activities was a visit to the Knesset – the Israeli Parliament – where Envision attendees were greeted by Knesset Member Robert Ilatov and Director of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus Josh Reinstein.

The conference concluded with a gala banquet, featuring special guests Robert Stearns of Eagles Wings and his good friend, a Jewish Rabbi, who encouraged everyone present to walk in integrity and serve as ambassadors of truth about Israel and the Middle East. 😊
“Take a step back from your daily responsibilities and receive a ‘bird’s eye view’ on what God is doing around the world and in Israel today. It will be a time during which God can strengthen and envision you afresh for the calling He has placed upon your life and ministry.” - Dr. Jürgen Bühler

The ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler, along with our partnering Israeli pastors, invite you to join the Envision Conference 2018. Experience a time of refreshment in the presence of the Holy Spirit, while standing in the chosen land of Israel. Visit: envision.icej.org
Remembering the Perished, caring for the Survivors

BY ESTERA WIEJA

Two days each year are set aside to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, an important reminder to the world to never turn a blind eye to hatred. European Jews that survived Nazi atrocities are now in our care, but not for much longer.

The first Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed internationally on the 27th of January, when the concentration camp in Auschwitz was liberated by Allied forces. The second memorial day, observed in Israel and known as Yom HaShoah, usually falls in April or early May and is linked to the Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto. The International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, representing the global family of Christians while being located in the land of Israel, is mindful of both commemorations.

In January, the ICEJ marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day by laying a wreath at Yad Vashem and then participating in a ceremony with Israeli Knesset members and hundreds of guests at our Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa. Holocaust survivors Mordechai Lieber and Shalom Sztamberg shared personal stories of their horrible experiences during the Holocaust, remembering the many family members of attendees who perished.

Haifa Home resident Shoshanna Kolmer together with Haifa Home director Shimon
“We are here today to remember and we will not cease to do so, and we will never forget what happened during the Holocaust.”

Sabag and ICEJ senior spokesman David Parsons ignited a flame of commemoration. “We are here today to remember and we will not cease to do so, and we will never forget what happened during the Holocaust,” Yudit Setz from the ICEJ assured the crowd, specially addressing the Survivors present. “We love you and care for you and we will stand with you always.”

This year on Yom HaShoah, all Israelis will once again stop in their tracks and remain silent for a minute to remember the ones they lost to human hatred and ignorance during World War II. The ICEJ will stand together with the people of Israel in their moment of mourning and reflection. On that day we will also continue making our love known to the Holocaust Survivors in our care.

DONATE ONLINE

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL in making sure the Holocaust Survivors KNOW LOVE in their latter days. Your gift to the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors ensures that the elderly in our care live the remainder of their days in dignity. www.icej.org/haifa
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2017 ENVISION
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The Case for Returning to Jerusalem

BY DAVID PARSONS

The time has come for the nations to right an historic injustice by officially recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving their embassies there. The promise by new US President Donald Trump to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem may be stirring anger and threats in some quarters, but 2017 is the right time to make this long overdue move, as we mark fifty years since the city of Jerusalem was reunited under Israeli sovereignty in June 1967.

In 1950, a reborn Israel declared Jerusalem to be its capital and placed its main government institutions there, including the parliament, president, prime minister and Supreme Court. This despite the fact that Jewish western Jerusalem was still precariously surrounded at the time by hostile Arab forces. This decision reflected the deep spiritual, historic and cultural significance which the Jewish people attach to Jerusalem.

However, the international community has refused to extend de jure recognition to Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and instead placed their embassies in Tel Aviv. In the case of the United States, this is a gross anomaly in that Israel is the only democratic ally of America where its official embassy is not located in the capital city chosen by the host country. The US has never even recognised western Jerusalem as part of the Jewish state.

This unjust policy originated in the United Nations Partition Plan of 1947, which called for dividing Mandatory Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state, but with Jerusalem set aside as a corpus separatum under international supervision. This UN decision to “internationalise” the city reflected a certain colonialist attitude toward the new Jewish state. Many Christian and Muslim leaders also were reluctant to see the holy sites of Jerusalem placed under Jewish control. Even so, it is often overlooked that the UN Partition Plan specifically provided for a city-wide referendum within ten years allowing local residents to decide the fate of the city. So the internationalisation of Jerusalem was merely intended as a temporary measure, and the Jewish majority in the city would have soon ensured it became part of Israel. Nonetheless, President Harry Truman embraced the concept of internationalisation...
for Jerusalem, setting a course for US policy on the city which has since drifted into folly. Meanwhile, many in the European Union still push for internationalising Jerusalem, even though it is a defunct idea rejected by all the core claimants to the city.

After the city was reunited in June 1967, there has been a continuing effort to deny Israel and the Jewish people their rightful place in Jerusalem under other pretexts. In more recent decades, the US has joined the international community in stressing the need to be neutral when it comes to Jerusalem, so as not to prejudge the outcome of negotiations over the city between Israel and the Palestinians.

But this is a dishonest argument as many nations – including the US – have located their senior envoys to the Palestinians, some at the ambassadorial level, in Jerusalem, while their Israeli equivalents sit in Tel Aviv.

Further, the UN Security Council recently adopted a resolution which thoroughly contradicts this even-handed approach. Passed in December, UNSC resolution 2334 declared East Jerusalem to be “occupied Palestinian territory,” and determined that Israeli actions there constitute “a flagrant violation of international law”. Thus, the UN itself has deliberately prejudged the outcome of talks over the future status of Jerusalem. There is an urgent need to rectify this major diplomatic blunder.

This leaves only one remaining excuse for the US and other nations to still refuse to move their embassies to Jerusalem, and that is fear of the potentially violent Arab and Islamic response. This attitude of weakness is reflected in the way that recent US Administrations have all exercised the presidential waiver authority added at the last minute to the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, delaying the Embassy move every six months on the grounds that it is in US “national security interests.” This is not a policy based on principle, fairness or historical right, but solely on timidity over the possible Arab/Islamic reaction, and it has effectively granted the Palestinians a veto over US decision-making.

The time has come to finally right this wrong by the US recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and moving its Embassy there. This show of resolve by the Trump administration would not only remove a diplomatic stain, but also signal the Palestinians that the time for compromise has come. It also would send a message to the entire world that America stands by its allies and that peace and progress for the region will no longer be held hostage by fear.

Surely, there will be no harm to the outcome of peace talks if the US Embassy is relocated to west Jerusalem. All parties know this sector of the city will remain part of Israel in any final status agreement. Nor is anyone seriously looking for a return to that dismal era from 1948 to 1967 when the city was forcibly divided. And Israel can still work out a way to share an open and united Jerusalem with the Palestinians.

Certainly, Jerusalem must be kept open for all those with faith in God. But the Jewish people are the proper custodians of the city. Christians and Muslims can trust the Jewish people in this regard, because their own Hebrew scriptures demand that they maintain the city as a “house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7). Israel has guaranteed religious freedom in its Declaration of Independence, and is committed to maintaining the status quo with regards to the city’s holy sites. In fact, of all the sovereign rulers over Jerusalem down through the centuries, Israel has compiled the best track record in ensuring access and freedom of worship in the city.

While some Muslim extremists might vent their rage and threaten violence, we should not take all the recent warnings of chaos and destruction at face value. Jerusalem remains a sensitive issue, but the Trump administration has a unique opportunity this year to lead a group of freedom-loving, democratic nations back up to Jerusalem. Such a collective return to the city would go far in defusing tensions in the region. 😊

***************************************

David Parsons is a vice president and senior spokesman for the ICEJ. He authored the initial draft of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 for Sen. Jon Kyl.
A new leadership structure for the Jerusalem headquarters has been approved by the international Board of the ICEJ at their latest meeting during the Feast of Tabernacles last fall. This decision is part of a wider strategic plan to better position the global ministry of the ICEJ for the future. It was necessary to accommodate the healthy growth we have seen in recent years both internationally and at the headquarters in Jerusalem.
“We all are excited as this provides a transparent and effective structure for the future development and growth of our ministry”, said Ingolf Ellßel, the Global Chairman of the ICEJ. Jürgen Bühler added that in the end it is not about titles or positions, but that the work of God can be carried out in more effective ways and that we can maximise our impact for Israel.

**Jürgen Bühler** continues to be the senior leader overseeing the global work of the ICEJ, but his title has been changed from Executive Director to President. His responsibility is to develop the general vision of the ministry and will assure that the ministry follows the vision and mission as approved by the Board. He will focus on implementing new ministry streams and activities within the ICEJ and representing the ministry in Israel and abroad. He will continue to provide general oversight to our global ministry, to ensure its growth and development. Much of the day-to-day responsibility, however, will be alleviated by delegating it throughout a new senior level of leadership, sharing the burden within a tier of vice presidents who give leadership to the following areas.

**Rev. Barry Denison**, Vice President – Operations: responsible for Israel operations including ICEJ AID and Aliyah, and the functioning of the head office and staff.

**Rev. David Parsons**, Vice President – Senior International Spokesman: ensure the message and positions of the ICEJ are properly communicated to the media and world at large.

**David van der Walt**, Vice President – Finance: in charge of our financial accounting and development.

In addition, we are blessed with a very dedicated and gifted staff in Jerusalem of currently 35 people coming from 16 nations. They are all your ambassadors and your extended arms here in Israel, to show your love and compassion to the people of this Land.

Furthermore we have an amazing group of dedicated national leaders and their teams in close to 90 nations around the world who work tirelessly to bless and support Israel in their respective countries.

This is an exceptional team of devoted believers from around the world united with one purpose: to comfort and bless Israel in the most powerful manner possible. They are a gift of God for His work here in Israel. Please pray for each one of these outstanding people.

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In addition, ** Howard Flower**, Aliyah Director – oversees out of St. Petersburg all ICEJ initiatives regarding the return of the Jewish people to their homeland.

**Amanda Gross**, Senior TV producer – responsible for all video film and media broadcasts on the growing list of twelve TV channels worldwide.

**Scott Morgan**, Events registration and coordination (Feast of Tabernacles, Envision, etc.).

**Jani Salokangas**, Director for the young adults outreach “Arise” and responsible for marketing and electronic media.

**Estera Wieja**, Senior editor of the *Word from Jerusalem* magazine and responsible for all print media.

**Nicole Yoder**, Director of the Aid team overseeing all social outreaches in Israel.

In addition, we are blessed with a very dedicated and gifted staff in Jerusalem of currently 35 people coming from 16 nations. They are all your ambassadors and your extended arms here in Israel, to show your love and compassion to the people of this Land.

**These are necessary structural changes. What will not change is our mission in Israel. “Comfort, comfort my people” says the Lord.’ (Isa 40:1) These eternal words have defined our mission since 1980 and will continue to do so in the future. The vision which God has given us is simple: ALL ISRAEL AND EVERY NATION. That means we seek to connect Christians and churches from every nation of the world with Israel and to extend their blessing to every segment of Israeli society.**

Please stand with us as we pursue this God-given assignment. - Jürgen Bühler
The time has come for the Jewish people to make Aliyah (Heb. ascension) to Israel. Our mandate is to ensure every Jew is able to do so.

To bring Jews home is the greatest investment for the nation of Israel. New immigrants come to Israel not to simply settle for just anything. They come to Israel with great dreams, wanting to build up their own homeland – their promised land.

They are willing to do whatever it takes to advance as individuals and participate in developing this country.

However, not every immigrant can afford this move or knows what to expect once they arrive in their new home country. This is especially true for Ethiopian Olim (immigrants), who face many unique challenges along the way. For this reason the ICEJ made a commitment to support them in their decision to return to Israel, and together with our Christian partners around the world we make their journey possible.
“We want to give an opportunity to all the Jews, whose fathers and mothers dreamed of the land of Israel for centuries, to fulfill that dream”

Moodi Sandberg, former minister in the Israeli Knesset and currently the president of Keren Hayesod which heads some of the biggest Aliyah projects in Israel, is a strong spokesman and advocate for the Ethiopian community.

“We want to give an opportunity to all the Jews, whose fathers and mothers dreamed of the land of Israel for centuries, to fulfill that dream,” shared Moodi with the ICEJ. “And when they arrive [in Israel], we want them to adapt here well.”

As Christians, we can fulfill the prophecy from Isaiah by carrying Jews back to the land of their fathers (Is 49:22), and we will be blessed for it in return, according to the spiritual law described in the Bible. Moodi explained it’s already happening today: “Whatever is developed here is for the world.

The advancements achieved by the immigrants here are not just for Israel, but become a gift to the world. Whenever we have good things in our hands, it will be shared later with the nations! We came to this land to do something new, and to be a blessing.”

Tadeso is an Israeli Jew, who grew up in a small village in Gondar, Ethiopia. He came to Israel eight years ago and today works at Intel. With pride and joy, he shared with us how he was able to take a special training in Israel in electronics, and today works in his profession. Nevertheless, many more like him are still in Ethiopia, waiting for their chance at a better life.

Don’t wait any longer! Join the ICEJ today and pave the way for more Ethiopian Jews to return to Israel! Send your gift at: www.icej.org/ethiopia

ETHIOPIAN ALIYAH FACTS

The Government of Israel resolution from August 2016 states that in 2017, 1,300 Olim (new immigrants) will be brought to Israel from Ethiopia. These are the first of the total of 9,000 potential Olim whose eligibility will be checked and approved by the Ministry of Interior.

Once the Olim have permission to come on Aliyah we will be bringing them as quickly as possible and the absorption centers are ready for their arrival. There is no time or resources to prepare the Olim in Ethiopia, therefore once they arrive the absorption will be crucial for their successful integration into Israeli society.
HOPE FOR NIGER

At the beginning of February Dr. Jürgen Bühler, the ICEJ President, and Rev. Juha Ketola, ICEJ Vice President – International Affairs, along with Israeli former Minister and Knesset member Moody Sandberg, now the Chairman of Keren Hayesod, paid a visit to Niamey, the capital of Niger.

The ground work for the visit was done by the ICEJ West-Africa Representative Dr. Abdou Maiga, who together with the ICEJ Niger National Director Pastor Moctar Soumana hosted the visitors from Israel. The delegation was warmly received by high-ranking officials in the country and visited some of the governmental offices in the Niger capital.

The ICEJ has had a branch in Niger for a few years, and though officially the Christian minority is said to be less than 10% of the population, the churches are seeing an increase in numbers and the representation continues to grow. Nevertheless, this mostly Muslim nation, enclosed by the Saharan desert, is one of the poorest countries in the world. One third of babies born in Niger are malnourished and half of the nation’s children under the age of 14 are forced into labor. About 80% of the country is illiterate.

When the Israeli delegation met with the head Imam of the Islamic Community in Niger, Sheikh Omar Ismael, he described his country as “a sick man.” This provided Dr. Bühler an opportunity to share his testimony of healing through the power of Jesus, and the ICEJ President assured the leaders in Niger that, as Christians, we will pray for their nation.

The ICEJ strongly believes as a ministry we can help improve the social and economic well-being of the Niger people in the future, and thus a visit like this is of great importance. We invite Christians around the world to pray with us for the people of Niger – may we become witnesses of their healing as a nation!

azerbaijan

Located in the South Caucasus region, at the crossroads of Southwest Asia and Southeastern Europe, Azerbaijan is historically a Muslim country. Bordering Iran, Russia, Georgia and Armenia, this former soviet country has been involved in many conflicts and to this day reaps the fruit of an extended war with Armenia. The Republic of Azerbaijan has the second highest population percentage-wise of Shia Muslims in the world. For that reason, there is a special relationship between Azerbaijan and Iran, where citizens of Azerbaijan can freely travel to Iran without a visa. The small Jewish population, currently estimated between 10 to 20 thousand, has a long history in the land, reaching as far back as 2,500 years.

The leadership of the ICEJ took a bold step to enlarge its influence in the region and recently appointed an official representation in the Republic of Azerbaijan. On Sunday, the 5th of February, the Full Gospel Pentecostal Church in the country opened its doors for us, and expressed a sincere desire to form a lasting relationship with the ICEJ, in order to bless Israel. The president of the Bible Society of Azerbaijan, Rev. Rasim Khalilov and another spiritual leader in the country, Rev. Aleksander Neretin, agreed to make the ICEJ representation in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, go public this spring.

We ask you to pray with us for Azerbaijan today! Lift your prayers for God to open all the right doors in this country, and wisdom for ICEJ to operate effectively in this unique environment at this time in history.
In January this year I flew to India to minister in four different states of this huge country. I was hosted as usual by our ICEJ India Director Pastor ‘Dany’ Meka Padma Rao with whom I have traveled and ministered together many times before. But this time was radically different and very special, since the Lord Jesus had just saved him from death and miraculously healed him.

In early November, Pastor Dany's life should have ended on earth, but instead God used this tragic incident to display His saving love and miraculous power in His servant for all to see and hear!

**Pastor Dany's miraculous survival and healing**

Early one morning, at the beginning of November 2016, Pastor Dany woke up at home in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, to pray and to work on his computer. He quietly went to the kitchen and closed the door behind him. While in the kitchen he suddenly noticed the smell of gas, so he checked for a leak. Everything seemed fine, so he proceeded to switch on his computer. Instantly the gas cylinder exploded in the kitchen, right where he was; the room erupted in flames and the building started to collapse.
Pastor Dany cried out to the Lord with one single prayer: “Jesus, help me get out of here!” Protecting his face with his arms, he somehow stumbled through the raging fire, over rubble and into the street, where many neighbors had gathered, having heard the explosion. He was immediately taken to a clinic, but due to extensive burns on his arms, face and legs, they could not treat him. Thankfully the second clinic received him and he was admitted to the hospital.

In the midst of his suffering from extreme physical pain and also great emotional sense of loss, his one comforting thought was: His family was safe. Had he not closed the kitchen door, that would not have been the case.

For three days Pastor Dany laid in bed with excruciating pain; his arms and legs covered with bandages, his face badly burned by the flames. During those three long days he thought surely his life was over. He feared he would never move his arms again, be able to continue his ministry, or look after his family. He felt completely crushed.

However, after those three days, early in the morning something miraculous and supernatural happened. Pastor Dany had a vision. In his vision a man came to him saying: “Why are you crying? Why are you in pain?” With bewilderment, Pastor Dany answered: “I cannot move my arms, I cannot even move my fingers. Isn’t it obvious? My whole life is over.” And he added: “Who are you?” The man in the vision replied: “I know who you are. I have met you in Jerusalem. Now start moving your fingers.”

In this vision, the man asked Pastor Dany to do exactly the thing he had been unable to do. By faith, Pastor Dany listened, and his fingers started to move! “Now move your arms,” he was told. He did, and his arms started working again! Experiencing this amazing healing in his arms, by his own initiative Pastor Dany proceeded to get up from the bed, and was able to walk on his own to the bathroom! His mother, who had been in his hospital room with him for three days, was awestruck asking him what he was doing. Soon other patients would come around to see how “the Pastor is now walking!”

On the fourth day, Pastor Dany requested his bandages with burnt skin be peeled off, reassuring the hospital staff he was ready to endure the pain. That day they removed two kilos of skin off of his frail body. The doctors had advised it would take two to three months before he would be ready to leave the hospital. But lo and behold, Pastor Dany was able to walk out of the hospital on the ninth day, and was preaching at his local church the very next day! No one could believe it!

His colleagues confessed they had lost all hope for him. And here he was, alive and well! His doctors requested Pastor Dany’s permission to use pictures of his healed arms; his neighbors had been amazed when he walked out from a collapsing building to begin with, and now that he was back with his burns completely healed, they all were giving glory to God for saving his life and healing him! It was so clear that only the one true God could do this.

Ministering together again

This glorious and supernatural healing testimony became our theme as we joyously traveled together with Pastor Dany through his country. We ministered at local churches, led seminars for pastors and leaders, and so much more throughout India: In Mumbai in Maharashtra state; in Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh state; in Bangalore in Karnataka state; and in Chennai in Tamil Nadu state. Hundreds from across the denominations came to the ICEJ seminars, and it was also a great privilege to minister in Chennai at a church of 3000 members.

During this remarkable visit to India, I felt led in my heart to deliver a message to our Indian brothers and sisters of how God used the nation of Israel to bring Jesus into this world. Joyfully we spoke of our Savior Jesus, whom virgin Mary carried in her womb, and who after His resurrection and glorification lives today in our spirits and our hearts! Combined with Pastor Dany’s powerful testimony, the impact of this message was strong and encouraging to all who came to listen.
A special rate of $425.00 for full registration is available until April 30, 2017.

$1345

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

$425

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

The Feast of Tabernacles is always a wonderful foretaste of that future time when all peoples will come up to Jerusalem to celebrate Sukkot. It is a prophetic statement that our Lord is indeed coming soon. And it declares to Israel and the nations that a new day is dawning.

6-11 October 2017

feast.icej.org

We look forward in seeing you in Jerusalem

The City of God – in 2017!