SEND A BIBLE TO UNESCO
The ICEJ reacts to UNESCO attempts to rewrite history

All the Families of THE EARTH
2016 Feast of Tabernacles
Dear friends,

Again we experienced another blessed Feast of Tabernacles. Every year the Lord shows up and blesses beyond our expectations. He is faithful to do so, because the Feast of Tabernacles is not the ICEJ’s feast, but it is the Feast of the Lord. He has called us to be faithful stewards to make the Feast a place for the nations where they can meet and encounter God.

The pilgrims came again from more than 80 nations, bringing reports of revival in China and Latin America as well as news of what God is doing in Israel and the Arab world. Excellent Bible teachings from teachers like David Pawson and Billy Wilson, together with a powerful prophetic word from Malcolm Hedding, were some of the highlights besides exuberant worship and powerful prayer sessions during the week.

If you haven’t had a chance to join us, I want to encourage you to come to Jerusalem in 2017 as we will celebrate the 50 years’ Jubilee of a united city of Jerusalem.

A few days before this year’s Feast, the first delegation of Ethiopian Jews was welcomed by the Jewish Agency and the ICEJ at the Ben Gurion Airport. It was an exciting experience to be part of what seems to be the beginning of the last chapter of Ethiopian Aliyah. Thank you so much to all of you who are taking part in this historic and prophetic project financially and in prayer. Thanks to your generous support, during the Feast we were already able to give a second generous gift to the Jewish Agency designated for Ethiopian Aliyah.

Please continue to pray and support this unique work of bringing the last Jews from Ethiopia back to their homeland!

I hope you enjoy reading this new issue of the magazine and are as excited as we are about what God is doing in our days in Israel!

May the Lord bless you richly from Zion,
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This year’s Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem became a powerful embodiment of the biblical model of assembly. Following the theme “All the Families of the Earth,” many of the Feast attendees came with their entire families, instead of just in tour groups. The six-day-long celebration resounded with loud voices of prayer and praise from the mouths of young and old, men and women, and in dozens of languages. This prophetic feast of the Lord became a time of refreshing and renewal for families which gathered in the land of Israel from over 80 nations.

Representatives from every continent had an opportunity to bless the people of Israel during their stay in Jerusalem. Churches from Bolivia brought offerings collected over the entire year to support the Jewish people. A representative from Cameroon, a diverse country in central Africa, presented Holocaust survivors with 70 care packages made in their nation. At the Jerusalem March, pilgrims could hug, bless and speak words of encouragement to the local Israelis. The outpouring of compassion and love was endless.

But above all else, these Christian families journeyed to Jerusalem from the four corners of the earth to glorify the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. While showing support and gratitude toward Israel, the message of the annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration remains the same since it began almost 40 years ago: We do this out of our love for the One True God.

As we thank God for this year’s Feast, we invite you to join the Feast of Tabernacles 2017! You can already register with a special early bird price at: feast.icej.org
Representatives from every continent had an opportunity to bless the people of Israel during their stay in Jerusalem.

Christian families journeyed to Jerusalem from the four corners of the earth to glorify the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
“Now the Lord had said to Abram: ‘Get out of your country, from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’” (Genesis 12:1-4)

What does the above passage from Genesis tell us about the Lord?

It captures a key moment in the history of the human race; the beginning of God’s rescue of the human race from itself. The conversation was not two-way; God did all the talking as He is a God who speaks! The universe came into being when God spoke it into being. We can rejoice that our God is a God who talks, who speaks, who communicates with us. Abram was a man who listened, which is the other side of communication. You only hear God if you’re listening.

Another thing this passage tells us is that God has a name. The name given here in Hebrew is the letters Yud Hey Vav Hey, which in English is spelled “Jehovah,” but is often pronounced “Yahweh” (Ya-hway). The significance of that name is this: It distinguishes our God from every other one who ever existed. He has a name, just as our name distinguishes us as unique from everyone else.

God is a commanding God. And He has a right to be, because He created us. He makes our laws and has a full right to tell us what to do and how to live.

He is a God of history. Only a God who can control history can promise to make a great nation out of someone, give them a great name, and then keep that promise, which He has done! Today, everyone knows the name Israel.

God is a God who blesses people: to do them good, make provision for their needs, protect them when attacked and bless them. He promised to bless Abram and through him, everyone else as well. That is a big promise, and God is a God who blesses people.

But there is also a downside to it: God is also a God who curses people. Some people think this only applies to the Old Testament, but it carries right through the New Testament, too. Modern man does not like this and wants a God who only blesses. But He will curse those who disobey Him.

He is a Father of Israel who says, ‘what you do to my children, you do to Me – and I will do to you.’ Cursing is to speak harmfully about people, to damn them for the future. It’s a true fact of history that every nation, every empire, which has risen up against this little land of Israel, has in turn been cursed by God.

God is a very patient God. His covenant with Abram took hundreds of years to work out. In fact, with roughly half the Jewish people still living outside the Land of Israel today, God has a lot of work left to do to bring them back and give them what He promised. But He is patient and will be faithful to complete it. Time is relative to Him, and He is an Eternal God.

Finally, He is a caring God. His concern is for all the people He has made; not just for Abram, but for “All the families of the earth.” His plan involves EVERYONE, but it will reach them through Abraham and his descendants, and those like ourselves who look to him as our Father. God cares about the people He has created, and He wants to bless them too, through Abraham’s family!

Jesus was, is and always will be, a Jew. My Bible is full of Jewish writing. Everything I value most I owe to the Jewish People. And this applies to every nation of the world; until the nations swallow their pride and bless this nation, Israel, they will not know the truth, nor have salvation.

God chose one nation, not for their sake, but for the sake of everyone else. God made this covenant with Abraham, the benefits of which we all enjoy.

To hear the full message, visit www.icejstore.com
The six-day-long celebration resounded with loud voices of prayer and praise from the mouths of young and old, men and women, and in dozens of languages.

WHERE LOVE CONQUERED DEATH

Garden Tomb Communion Service

The Communion Service at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem is always a memorable time for pilgrims to reflect on the sacrifice made on the Cross. Pastor Wayne Hilsden’s powerful message of hope focused on Romans 6:5: “For if we have been united with [Jesus] in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His.” Local pastors Oded Shoshani, a Messianic Jew, and Vincent Shamaz, an Arab Christian, personified what the act of communion represents; pointing to Jesus’s power and love, they shared bread and wine with one another in unity and forgiveness.

Feast attendee Berly Kristiansen from Norway shared how deeply impacted she was by the service. “As we were worshipping, I felt God’s presence come over us as if He was kissing His children, because He was so pleased with all of us – from all around the world – gathered together to worship Him!”
FROM EVERY NATION AND EVERY TRIBE
The Parade of Nations at the Pais Arena in Jerusalem

At the Pais Arena in Jerusalem, delegates from every country represented at the Feast of Tabernacles walked down the stage holding their national flag, as crowds cheered them on. This year, the 80+ countries were often represented on stage by not just one delegate but an entire family, to correspond with this year’s theme.

The pilgrims were then welcomed to Jerusalem by Dr. Jürgen Bühler, ICEJ Executive Director. His message focused on the main theme of this year’s Feast: All the Families of the Earth. Encouraged by his own personal experience of a miraculous healing, he gave the attendees an opportunity to receive prayer for healing on the opening night and the evenings that followed. Hundreds came forward to pray and felt the tangible presence of God.

“The family relationship within the Body of Christ is important because it is an eternal relationship,” he emphasized. 😇
Parade of Nations with people from all around the world

CHRISTIANS REMEMBER VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST
10th Anniversary of ‘Christian Friends of Yad Vashem’

This year at the Feast of Tabernacles 2016, pilgrims also had an opportunity to celebrate a revolutionary and wonderful endeavor which began in Jerusalem in October, 2006. That year the ICEJ was invited to enter an unprecedented partnership with Yad Vashem, an institution in the capital city of Israel that honors the memory of the Jewish people who went through or perished in the Holocaust. This historic breakthrough in repairing Jewish-Christian relations lead to the establishment of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, a partnership between Yad Vashem and the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

Led by Dr. Susanna Kokkonen, the Christian Desk connects Christians from around the world with Yad Vashem, to support the nations in Holocaust commemoration, education, research, documentation, and raising awareness about anti-Semitism.

CELEBRATING SUKKOT AS JEW AND GENTILE
Close to 800 Israeli Guests join the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles

The ICEJ celebrated the lives of Holocaust survivors from the Haifa Home with a touching performance by Ilana Avital, a popular Israeli singer who invited twelve survivors to sing with her. The song was followed by more musical performances, during which many of the Haifa Home residents rose from their seats to dance! The dancing and singing continued throughout the night, especially during songs performed by Vesna Bühler who was accompanied by professional Arab orchestra in her performance of a Jewish prayer from Psalm 147.

One guest in the audience was Rabbi Yitschak Naki. He enjoyed the celebration immensely and commented, “It is truly beautiful to see so many people who love Israel gathered together here in Jerusalem.”
HONOURING AN OUTSTANDING SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL
Dr. George Giacumakis receives the Nehemiah Award

ICEJ has established the Nehemiah Award to annually honour outstanding figures for a lifetime of achievements for the sake of Israel and the Jewish people at the Christian celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.

This year, the ICEJ presented Dr. George Giacumakis with the Nehemiah Award. ICEJ-USA director Susan Michael recognized in her introduction of Dr. Giacumakis his lifetime record of excellence in promoting and defending Israel and teaching the Body of Christ the truth about the Bible and the Jewish people. Dr. George Giacumakis is Professor of History and Director Emeritus of the California State University Fullerton – Irvine Campus. He is the Founder and Director of the Museum of Biblical and Sacred Writings with exhibitions in various locations, as well as Director of ‘HistoryOnTheMove’ Study Tours to Europe, the Middle East and Africa. For more than 20 years Dr. Giacumakis also served on the first board of the ICEJ.

“It has been wonderful to see how the Feast of Tabernacles has grown over the years. I thank the Lord for what he has done through you and ICEJ,” Dr. Giacumakis told the audience.

THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM RESOUND WITH JOY
The annual Jerusalem March

Every year, the Jerusalem March is a highlight of the Sukkot holiday, both for the pilgrims who march and residents of the city who line the streets to observe. This colorful, international parade ran through some of Jerusalem’s most popular neighborhoods, filling them with music and laughter. Local children were mesmerized by this outpouring of love and support, reaching for flags, candy, and little notes of love handed out by marchers; any type of souvenirs to remind them of the day the whole world came to them.

Mr. and Mrs. Eglvin from Norway marched in the parade for the first time. “We have many parades in Norway, but nothing quite like this. The thing that touched us the most was hearing the Israeli people on the sides of the street shouting to us, ‘You are welcome here!’”
A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT
Excerpt from the Feast teaching by Malcolm Hedding

At 4:30 this morning I was suddenly awakened and experienced the following words flooding my mind and heart. I cannot quite describe it; it was as if I was detached from them and was gazing at them as they rolled by in front of me. Still more amazing was the fact that they were etched in my memory immediately and I could write them down some hours later word-for-word. That evening at the final plenary event of the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem, I declared them over the assembled delegates:

“I say unto you, a great darkness, indeed a thick and heavy darkness, is coming upon the earth …… but, I will give you light, a light that will penetrate the darkness and overcome it. Be not afraid because this will be an hour of testing for many in My Church, and even one of persecution, but be faithful in your sufferings for I have overcome the world. Truly those whom I call to walk this road share in the fellowship of My sufferings. This, My people, is a privilege!

“Moreover, a great light will come from My throne upon Israel. Those who have despised My people will be put to shame, says the Lord. But you will rejoice because you have been faithful to Me for them. Therefore, for you who have borne My name, a great joy will flood your hearts, indeed a joy that will rise up within you like a great tidal wave. It will be your strength, it will give you courage and it will fill your hearts with peace.

“Above all know this: I am coming quickly, yes I am coming quickly and My reward is with Me and therefore hold fast what you have. Moreover, lift up your heads heavenward for I stand at heaven’s door and shortly it will open and I will come forth with great glory and, as My feet stand upon the Mount of Olives, I tell you, My glory will fill the whole earth.

“Go forth then with joy and have in your hearts this blessed hope!”

Witness the great things God does at the Feast personally, and plan on coming to Jerusalem next year! Register Now for the Feast of Tabernacles 2017 and receive an early-bird discount at feast.icej.org
“How exciting it is for me to stand here before you,” exclaimed Robert Singer, the CEO of the World Jewish Congress, standing on the podium of the Pais Arena Wednesday evening of the Feast. “You love Israel just as the Jewish people do!” The auditorium erupted with applause.

With a sense of disappointment and grief, Singer brought up the recent UNESCO decision to strip Jerusalem of its Jewish and Christian history: “The place where the First and Second Jewish Temples stood... the place where Jesus was found as a boy sitting in the midst of the teachers... According to the UNESCO decision, the Temple Mount is only and exclusively, and I quote, a Muslim holy site of worship,” he said. “This disgraceful decision, made by an organization supposedly promoting education, science and culture, was an insult to all educated people, to all Jews, to all Christians.”

Ron Lauder, the President of the World Jewish Congress, unable to attend the event this year, sent a video greeting to the attendees: “My dear Christian friends, over two thousand years strong,” said Ron Lauder. “It’s been three years since I first spoke at your gathering, when we established a strong, unbreakable friendship.” Lauder stressed that there is nothing more important to the World Jewish Congress than the continuous strong bond between Jews and Evangelical Christians.

“Three years ago I made a pledge: just as you stand with us, we will stand with you,” quoting the Book of Romans in the New Testament, Lauder encouraged the Christian supporters of Israel at the Feast of Tabernacles to trust the promises of God and stand strong against the words of enemy who tries to undermine the biblical truths about the land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.

To hear the full speeches of Robert Singer and Ron Lauder, together with speeches from Josh Reinstein of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus and Malcolm Hedding of the ICEJ, you can purchase a recording of the whole evening from www.icejstore.com.
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Ethiopian Jews on the road to freedom

In early October, just in time for the Feast of Sukkot, 63 Ethiopian Jews arrived in Israel as precursors of the latest wave of Aliyah from Ethiopia.

Thanks to the support of the ICEJ, they were finally reunited with relatives who came to Israel in the years past.

The ICEJ, depending on Christian donors from every continent, vowed to bring many more Ethiopian Jews home, to reunite the families and provide a better future for the new generation of immigrants from the South.

On the day the first Aliyah flight from Ethiopia arrived this year, a state of emergency was put in place in this struggling African country. The Jewish families from Gondar need to be transported with great caution to Addis Ababa, the capital city 660 km away, where they can then board a flight to their Promised Land.

So far, with your faithful support, the ICEJ is able to sponsor the journey for the first 523 people. However, more Ethiopian Jews still need our help! 😊

You can be a part of this miracle – help bring the Jews back to their land!
Give at www.icej.org/aliyah

Thanks to generous gifts from Norway, Finland, USA, Taiwan and Germany, the ICEJ could donate another 1 million Shekels for Ethiopian Aliyah during the Feast of Tabernacles.
Settling in the Promised Land

In addition to helping with flights, the ICEJ will also help with absorption of Ethiopian Jews. In a way, their journey from poor villages in Ethiopia to the very developed country of Israel is like being transported 400 years into the future.

The new immigrants need a lot of help in understanding this new culture, so they are welcomed to absorption centers in various parts of the country where they learn the Hebrew language and Jewish history, such as the Holocaust and Israeli fight for independence. They also learn more about the Biblical holidays – Chanukah, Passover, and more – which many of them have celebrated in Ethiopia, thanks to oral traditions, but without understanding their history and significance.

Thanks to the Christian support through the ICEJ, the Ethiopian Jews are able to study and prepare for their future in the land of Israel. You can make a difference in their lives! 🙏

Send your gift to www.icej.org/absorption
Journey to the Promised Land

Jews from Belarus, Ukraine and Russia take a step of faith to return home.

Throughout the centuries of living in the diaspora, Jewish communities around the world invested their all to create safe homes for their children in the countries in which they lived. When the modern state of Israel was established in the twentieth century, many Jewish families were afraid to risk what they had, and move to the land they knew only from the Bible.

Today, the remaining Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union countries of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus are no longer safe and they are slowly realizing there is only one home – the land of Israel. The need for assistance to return them to their Promised Land is so great, and the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) recognizes this opportunity for Christians to participate in the fulfillment of prophecy, helping Jews return home!

The sudden decline of world oil prices caused the Russian and Belarusian currencies to lose more than half of their value and, following serious economic difficulties, Ukraine became entangled in a civil war. All three countries are stricken with capital flight, corruption, kleptocracy, mafia-like oligarchy and suppression of personal freedoms; all of which are influencing Jewish families to move to Israel.

In 2008, about 2,983 people made Aliyah to Israel from Russia and Belarus alone. By 2014 the number increased to 5,041 and in 2015 it was 7,124. The statistics show these numbers are still on the rise this year.

Since the early 1990s, the ICEJ has been assisting Jewish people make Aliyah from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Today we help more than 2,000 people each year collect all necessary documents, and we extend hospitality and humanitarian help. The ICEJ even helps the immigrants travel to the airport if necessary, as many direct flights to Israel depart from Finland.

Please join us in assisting this sudden and remarkable surge in Aliyah from the former Soviet states! Help us bring these Jewish families home by sending your gift today: www.icej.org/aliyah
ICEJ Encourages Young Israelis to Dream

By Maxine Carlill

Along Israel's southern borders with Gaza and Egypt, daily life is regularly interrupted by sirens and alerts, which give only 15 seconds notice of an incoming missile.

The ICEJ staff recently paid a solidarity visit to some of the communities close to the Gaza border, to show support and see the fruit of ICEJ donations from the past months.

On the beautiful grounds of a kibbutz near Gaza is a home for girls aged 12-18, who have been rescued from environments of abuse. With dedicated counsellors and personalised treatment, they have been given an opportunity to build new friendships. At this caring place many of the girls choose to study for a profession which will enable them to help other young Israelis who may have gone through similar traumas.

Some of us wondered why this facility was built so close to the Gaza border. In addition to this region being their home, the experiences of facing threats together and learning how to handle dangerous situations with confidence, actually strengthens the residents in their efforts to overcome other problems.

Thanks to Christian support, the ICEJ sponsored a large dining and living area on the premises, where ICEJ staff members found the girls practising English, playing games, and socializing. At last these troubled girls live in a place which gives them hope for the future.

To support projects like this one, go to: www.icej.org/aid

The ICEJ staff also visited a school for performing arts near Kibbutz Magen by the Gaza Strip. As the first of its kind in this southern region of Israel, the school provides local students with educational opportunities similar to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. The goal is to make available a world-class, intensive program in performing arts to high school students with artistic potential whose parents cannot afford professional schools in bigger cities.

A sobering security update from the region helped staff members understand the concerns of parents whose children attend the school. Thus we were delighted to witness the delivery of another ICEJ-funded shelters to the school.

The ICEJ has the privilege of being a part of the miracle by lending a helping hand in many different ways, bringing encouragement and security to the courageous residents along the dangerous southern border of Israel.

Please help us continue this life-changing work in Israel! Send your gift to ICEJ Aid at www.icej.org/aid
UNESCO Islamizes Holy Sites

While the ICEJ hosted another memorable Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem, attended by thousands of Christians from all over the world, UNESCO – the United Nations forum entrusted with preserving world heritage and culture – passed a disgraceful resolution aimed at erasing the Jewish and Christian bonds to the Land of Israel. Holy sites in Israel including Hebron, the Temple Mount, Jerusalem and Bethlehem, are referred to, by exclusively using Islamic names. Since UNESCO is in charge of all international heritage sites, this vote constitutes a rewriting of history, robbing all holy places in Israel of their Jewish and Christian identity thus Islamizing all the holy sites in Israel.

The ICEJ immediately denounced this disgraceful decision. “We are utterly dismayed that UNESCO has adopted once again a scandalous resolution, rewriting history and stripping historical sites of their 4,000 years of Jewish and 2,000 years of Christian connection,” declared ICEJ Director Jürgen Bühler during the Feast. The resolution purposefully omits the biblical history that by far predates any muslim tradition.

This onesided and biased document represents again a calculated insult against the Jewish people, as well as an affront to over two billion Christians worldwide who know that Jesus regularly visited the holy Jewish Temple, taught there, and was zealous for its calling as a “house of prayer for all nations.”

Additionally, the document blamed Israel for desecrating all holy sites and changing the character of Jerusalem. In truth, every visitor to Israel knows that the government of Israel has an exemplary record of protecting all holy sites, of all faiths, and guarantees access to them. The only site in Israel that has a very restricted access for Christians and Jews is the Temple Mount which is under the control of the Islamic Waqf.

On behalf of the Christian pilgrims at the Feast and the millions more that they represent from their home countries, we want to affirm that we respect the Jewish reverence for Jerusalem and all holy places. We will stand with Israel in confronting this devious assault on the historic sites in this land.
Send a Bible to UNESCO Today!

We are calling Christians all over the globe to take a Bible in your native language, use a highlighter and mark some of the many passages which speak of locations like Jerusalem, Hebron and Bethlehem, and especially the Holy Temple, and mail it to the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. Make sure to include a short letter expressing your disapproval of the recent vote.

We hope that the Bibles in many languages will reach UNESCO, sending a powerful message that Jews and Christians have a far longer and deeper-roted connection to Jerusalem and the Temple Mount than Muslims. In fact, Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Koran even once, whereas Jerusalem and the Temple are referred to hundreds of times in the Bible, and are central to nearly every book in the Word of God.

Please join us in demanding that UNESCO abandon, once and for all, these blatant attempts to rewrite history. This is the time when we cannot be silent! This is the time when we are not only standing with Israel, but are also defending the Christian sites within its borders!

Don’t wait! Send a Bible to the UNESCO offices today!

The address is:

UNESCO
7 Place Fontenoy
75007 Paris, France

You can direct your letter and address the package to your country’s representative at UNESCO. Find their name on this web page:


May the Lord bless you richly from Zion!

Dr. Jürgen Bühler,
Executive Director
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

Be sure to let us know at the ICEJ that you took action to send a Bible. Email us at icej@icej.org
Africa Opening Up to Israel

New ICEJ-Tanzania branch shows Africa’s heart to bless Israel

By David Parsons, Senior International Spokesman

In late September, Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu stood at the podium of the United Nations and delivered a shocking message: “Israel has a bright future at the UN.” Indeed, the world body has been incessantly condemning Israel for decades, yet he now has good reason to believe things are changing. Netanyahu cited his recent visit to Africa as one example of change, where he was warmly welcomed by numerous national leaders and large crowds of admiring people.

In August, I traveled to the country of Tanzania and saw firsthand the way Africa is now opening up to Israel as never before. I was joined by the Rev. Mosy Madugba, ICEJ’s Nigerian director and coordinator for all Africa, and together we inaugurated the new ICEJ-Tanzania branch. The official launch came during a nationwide conference on Israel attended by over 2,000 Christians from all across Tanzania as well as six other African countries. These believers were hungry for solid biblical teaching on Israel and the Church, were eager to bless Israel through much sacrificial giving, and were very excited to learn more about modern Israel and its many innovations. Many attendees proudly spoke of how the government of Tanzania is preparing to open a new embassy in Israel in order to improve relations between the two countries. This demonstrates just how ready Africa is to renew and expand ties with the Jewish state.

The launch of the ICEJ’s new branch in Tanzania was spearheaded by evangelist Stanton Newton, ICEJ’s representative there for the past two years. He has spent the past decade educating himself about Israel and the ICEJ, especially about our biblical message and aid projects. Over the last year, Stanton travelled throughout the country telling churches about the upcoming national conference on Israel and urging them to take up offerings for Israel and bring them to the gathering. As a result, almost US$9,000 was collected to “bless Israel.” Some of these donations were pledged towards our work to assist Holocaust survivors, while the bulk was designated to assist several families of Ethiopian Jews to make Aliyah to Israel. As the different regions of the country lined up to present their offerings, time after time I knew I was holding the “widow’s mite” in my hand, as the average annual income in Tanzania is about USD 600. Yet their profession of faith was very strong: If we bless Israel, we will be blessed.

Tanzania is a unique country in Africa as for several decades it was under the influence of communist China. This hindered development in some ways, but also gave the people a collective sense of identity as one nation, so Tanzania has not experienced the same tribal conflicts which have plagued many other countries across the continent. There is also a unique sense of unity even within the Body of Christ in Tanzania, as the leading bishops from the Anglican, Lutheran, Baptist, Catholic and Pentecostal churches all stood in unison with Israel on the platform at the ICEJ conference.

This unity sent a strong message to their government leaders, who are already moving to strengthen ties with Israel. The president himself will travel to Israel to open the new embassy in November. Meanwhile, a group of...
Christian business leaders, headed by the former foreign minister, has already acquired a 100-acre plot of land to build a model Israeli farm which will showcase all the agricultural innovations available from the Jewish state. They expect government officials and farmers from all across Africa to visit the model farm in the coming years.

In his UN address, Netanyahu highlighted Israel's agricultural innovations as one of the reasons African leaders are now looking to the Jewish state for answers on how to feed and defend their people. He also cited Africa's growing interest in Israel's technological advances and its expertise in counter-terrorism and cyber-security. While in New York, he also held a summit with leaders from 15 African nations to discuss opportunities for increased cooperation.

Netanyahu’s remarks at the UN came on the heels of his historic visit to four East African nations this past summer to mark the 40th anniversary of the famous Entebbe raid in Uganda in which Yoni, his older brother, died. Heads of state from several other nations in the region also flocked to the ceremonies and engaged with the large Israeli delegation, and Israeli officials have also entered negotiations with the main West African economic union to work out a favorable trade deal between them.

So the Israeli government has become very serious about restoring its historic ties with Africa, which were originally forged by Golda Meir in the 1950s and 60s. Although these ties were severed due to heavy Arab pressure following the 1967 Six Day War, African leaders now realize that Israel has the innovations and technology their nations need to prosper and secure their own futures.

No doubt, the International Christian Embassy has been at the forefront of this recent development. Israeli leaders first saw the potential of renewed ties with Africa in 2011 when the ICEJ branch in Nigeria successfully lobbied their president to not recognize a unilateral Palestinian state in the UN Security Council, thereby blocking that diplomatic initiative. Since then, we have met with leaders of numerous African nations, including some with Muslim majorities, who have all asked us to take back messages to Jerusalem of their interest in restoring relations with Israel. Indeed, it is a day of great favor on Zion, and Africa’s time to be blessed!
The Ancient Cities of Turkey and the Modern World

The ICEJ representative Serguei Popov, who is coordinating the work of the ICEJ in Eastern Europe and former CIS nations, was instrumental in establishing the ICEJ branch in Turkey. In the article below Popov shares important insight into how the history of Turkey remains relevant to the global Church today.

By Serguei Popov

The Republic of Turkey is a land of rich beauty and ancient empires, with shores on the Mediterranean, the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara. People come from around the world to enjoy the beauty and history of this land, in spite of the terrorism and conflicts which plague this region. Few, however, seem to remember this ancient land, while currently 99% Muslim, was once the cradle of Christianity.

Apostle Paul spent most of his time in this area during his first, second, and third missionary journeys in the First Century AD. Paul brought the gospel of Jesus Christ and established many churches, which are later mentioned in the Book of Revelation: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. It was here, in the ancient city of Antioch of Pisidia, that the term “Christian” was first used to describe followers of Christ. (Acts 11:26)

Over time, Christianity spread throughout the provinces and the teachings of Christ were incorporated into daily life, community and culture. Little physical evidence remains of the early church, however, since the Christians tended to meet in private homes. It was not until the 4th Century AD, when Roman Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, that churches came into public view.

It was here, in Turkey, where ecumenical councils developed the basic tenets of Christianity, and laid the moral and cultural values which became the foundation of the Judeo-Christian faith of today. This cradle of Christian civilization however was rocked with the coming of Islam, beginning in the 7th Century AD. For 700 years the Byzantine Empire, originally mostly Christian, resisted the onslaught of Islam but, on May 29, 1453, Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks.

Under the rule of the Ottomans, Islam became the official religion. Churches and Synagogues were destroyed or converted to Mosques. The magnificent St. Sophia Cathedral in Constantinople was taken by the Islamists and turned into the Hagia Sophia Mosque. Policies were soon established to encourage or force conversions of Christians to Islam. As a result, within the population of more than 70 million in Turkey, less than 1% profess themselves as Christians.

Another rapidly-disappearing people group in Turkey is the Jews. There are currently only approximately 20,000 Jews in Turkey, mainly in the capital city of Istanbul, who must keep a low profile for fear of hostility from Muslim neighbors. In November 2007, one Imam in Istanbul posted a verse from the Koran on the door of his mosque which read “friendship with Jews and Christians is forbidden.”

Today terrorism and radical Islam have taken over most of the Middle East and spread further into Europe. What happened? How is it that the world has become distracted from the teachings of Christ? Why is it that the religion of peace and love has been effectively swept away? The Bible teaches us
that the way to distraction starts with a cooling down of the hearts and spiritual lives of Christians, in churches, and in the culture.

The fall of Christianity in Turkey began much earlier than the Ottoman Turkish invasion. Jesus commended the great church in Ephesus for testing those who claimed to be apostles but were not. Although he applauded them for enduring persecution, nevertheless he confronted them for forsaking their first love. They got caught up in church administration and neglected the purpose of the church: To glorify God through the work of Christ.

To the church of Pergamum, Jesus pointed out the false teachings of Balaam and the Nicolaitans which they had allowed within the church. Jesus accused the church at Thyatira of tolerating the teachings of Jezebel, who was misleading people into sexual immorality and consuming food sacrificed to idols. He accused the church in Sardis of being a dead church and warned them to “wake up.” Finally, the church in Laodicia was considered lukewarm, because they became too comfortable in their wealth.

Do these messages to churches nearly 2,000 years ago have any relevance to today? Absolutely! Persecution is not the worst thing to happen to believers. The true danger lies in compromising church doctrine by mixing with secular and pagan ideas. The churches in Philadelphia and Smyrna resisted pressures from the world and they endured the persecution that came their way. The other five churches turned from a pure love of Christ and allowed sensuality, false teaching and worldly ideas to distract them from the pure gospel.

The remnant of Christians still existing in Turkey today can be attributed to the values lived and steadfastly adhered to long ago by the churches of Philadelphia and Smyrna. Jesus’ words were not just for the seven churches from 2,000 years ago. He speaks to every church, in every culture, in every period of time in the past, present and future. His message is of the victory we achieve by endurance, commitment to truth, boldness, and unyielding adherence to the unmodified teachings of Christ.

The lessons from the seven churches in the Book of Revelation are relevant today. Many have forgotten their first love and focused on church teachings polluted by secular inclusiveness, ignoring God’s call to holiness. Is this what we expect to happen to the Christian churches, to fade into dust leaving only a remnant, like in Turkey?

It is time for all of us to listen to what Jesus said to the church at Sardis: “Wake Up!” ☕️
The World Standing Up As One For Israel

The international work of the ICEJ impacts every continent, inspiring the nations of the world to support Israel in both word and deed.

By Rev. Juha Ketola, International Director

Since the beginnings of our work in early 1980s, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has been actively involved in the nations, raising prayer in all corners of the world and inspiring churches to discover God’s heart for His people. We bring awareness of what God is doing in Israel and encourage engagement on political, social and educational levels globally.

We reach out to churches and various Christian communities, as well as private and public schools, governmental institutions, businesses and more. Above all, we inspire the nations to pray fervently for Israel and the Jewish people, as we see biblical prophesies being fulfilled before our eyes.

With branches on every continent, the ICEJ is bringing change for the sake of Jerusalem and God’s purposes for His people.

A few years ago, the ICEJ received a prophetic word that new national branches would open in ten Muslim countries. Not long after, Pastor Abdou Maiga from Mali/Senegal joined the ICEJ family and through his sphere of influence, several new African countries opened their doors to the work of ICEJ. The most recent branch was inaugurated just this summer – in the country of MALAWI.

The director of ICEJ-SOUTH AFRICA was joined by Israeli Ambassador Arthur Lenk and Director-General Dore Gold for a church visit in Soweto during Israeli Apartheid Week, to oppose the BDS movement and false accusations of Israel.

The ICEJ West Africa Conference brought together ICEJ representatives from several countries, many of which experience serious religious conflicts within their borders, including TOGO and IVORY COAST.

The ICEJ and local leaders hosted an event in Durban, SOUTH AFRICA which focused on repentance for the infamous 2001 UN Durban Conference which equated Zionism with racism.
**ASIA**

With some of the most astounding revivals happening in Asia, the Gospel is touching souls across the continent while also drawing people’s attention to the nation chosen by God. The ICEJ is hard at work bringing awareness and support for Israel through the local ICEJ offices and representatives.

Churches in TAIWAN regularly hold powerful prayer meetings for the people and the nation of Israel.

With 110 volunteers in 25 out of the 29 states in INDIA, the ICEJ raised over 1 million prayer supporters for Israel in this highly populated country.

**EUROPE**

With an office in almost every European nation, the ICEJ connects with churches to unite Christians in prayer for the fulfillment of God’s promises to Israel and the Bride – the Church. The ICEJ holds a strong and evident pro-Israel position in the political sphere of the continent, while also promoting Jewish-Christian reconciliation and raising support for Israel.

In AUSTRIA and GERMANY, reconciliation projects between Christians and Jews gather thousands to show solidarity and promote understanding.

Religious students from Israel meet with their Christian peers in Wigan, UNITED KINGDOM, to learn from each other and encourage dialogue.

The ICEJ Brussels Symposium addressed the dangers of the BDS movement at the European Parliament in BELGIUM.

In FINLAND, the ICEJ hosted a business event to introduce Israel as a start-up nation. It was organized in partnership with the Israeli Embassy.
“From Jerusalem to the ends of the Earth” is a commission we take very literally, teaching the Bible and encouraging Christians even from the farthest lands in the Pacific to stand with Israel. Despite the geographical distance, Christians from Australia, New Zealand and the surrounding islands have been regularly attending the Feast of Tabernacles in great numbers.

Some tribes in Papua New Guinea, a country where more than 20% of the population are born-again believers, celebrate annually a “Thanksgiving for Israel Day.”

The ICEJ branch in Fiji organized a March called “Stand with Israel!” at the National Stadium, to mobilize Christians on the island to support the Jewish people.

The deep concern for Israel and her safety is shared by many American and Canadian supporters of the ICEJ, who have been very active on the political scene in their countries and internationally. The “Not One Bomb for Iran” petition was signed by more than 60,000 people, and tens of thousands more have joined the Isaiah 62 Prayer Initiative to regularly pray for Israel.
The dynamic Christian communities of Latin America are becoming increasingly stronger in their interest in and support for Israel. The ICEJ has been very successful in building a strong network of support for the people of Israel, both in prayer as well as diplomatically.

**The ICEJ branch in COSTA RICA**, established in 1984, is involved in a broad spectrum of activities, including prayerful and financial support of Israel as well as teaching local believers about biblical festivals and Jewish culture.

**At ICEJ meetings** and conferences in BRAZIL, tens of thousands of Christians gather at national stadiums to intercede for Israel and bless the Jewish people.

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### FROM JERUSALEM

From our office in Jerusalem, we strive to teach, inspire and connect churches and individuals with Israel. The ICEJ is your window into this land through the following media:

#### ICEJ TV

Watch ICEJ Reports every week on Israel Now News on Daystar Television Networks. The Word from Jerusalem program airs on the following networks: Alfa Omega (Romania), LMTV – Lumieredumonde TV (Ivory Coast), TV Genesis (Brazil), TBN Russia (Russia), IRR TV (Finland), Evangel TV (Nigeria), CMTV – Christian Missionary Television (Nigeria). For air times please check your network’s website. To learn more, visit www.icej.tv

#### Word From Jerusalem Magazine

Available for free by mail and online, the flagship magazine of the ICEJ which you hold in your hands is your bi-monthly source of information about ICEJ aid projects, special events and advocacy campaigns. The in-depth Bible teachings, news commentaries and special reports offer unparalleled insight into biblical and modern-day Israel.

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### TO JERUSALEM

As we encourage and inform believers around the world regarding what God is doing in Israel, we invite pastors and Christian leaders to personally experience and gain prophetic insight into this biblical land, and return home better-equipped to further God’s work in their communities. The ENVISION Conference for Pastors and Leaders was birthed to provide opportunities to refresh their spirit and receive a new vision for their ministry.

To learn more, visit envision.icej.org
Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah

LET'S WRAP THE YEAR IN ACTS OF LOVE!

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem will again mark both Hanukkah and Christmas holidays by sponsoring a series of festive events and gift distributions.

Delegates from the ICEJ AID department will attend a Hanukkah celebration at the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors to express holiday greetings on behalf of Christians from around the world.

Christian communities in Nazareth, Bethlehem and the Old City of Jerusalem take special pride in celebrating Christmas. In partnership with the evangelical churches in these cities, the ICEJ will sponsor special gift distributions for the local Arab Christians, especially children.

Thanks to our faithful supporters worldwide, many children in the needy Arab neighborhoods will have warm clothes for the winter. By giving to ICEJ AID, you help us make a difference in the significant Biblical cities of Bethlehem and Nazareth.

MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION AT www.icej.org/holidays
Next year’s Feast of Tabernacles will be a historic convocation with great prophetic significance. The year of 2017 will mark 50 years after the reunification of Jerusalem. Prior to 1967, Jerusalem was a divided city with the east part occupied by the Kingdom of Jordan. Jews that lived in the old city had been exiled to West Jerusalem and its Synagogues were destroyed. But in June 1967, Israel pre-empted a massive attack by Arab allied forces and not only miraculously survived as a nation but also regained control over the most holy sites of Judaism: The Temple Mount and the Old City of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was reunited once again.

In his Olivet discourse, Jesus prophesied over the city of Jerusalem: “And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” (Luke 21:24) Jerusalem was indeed trampled down by the nations for nearly 2000 years. The Roman Empire exiled the Jews in the year 70 AD and the city was subsequently controlled by the Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamelukes, Ottomans and finally the British. During that same period the Gospel of Jesus Christ spread to all four corners of the world. Indeed it was, and still is, the times of the Gentiles.

But June 1967 was the harbinger of a new area. For the first time in 2000 years Jerusalem was no longer ruled by the Gentiles but by its ancient people, the Jews. 2017 marks 50 years after a divided city became reunited. It is a Jubilee which roars like a lion that a new season is dawning for Israel and the church.

It is like a shofar blow calling the church to reach out for possibly one more final wave of world evangelisation, and at the same time to stand in friendship and comfort with Israel, united like never before. It is also a declaration to Israel that, unlike the past 2000 years, there is today a growing body of Christ that recognizes the calling of God upon Israel and the Jews.

You don’t want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience to celebrate this Jubilee feast in the “City of God” and to experience God talking to us in a unique way. Please inquire about our special rates if you want to bring a group or register for the unique land package offer of the ICEJ.

We look forward to welcoming you in Jerusalem – The City of God – in 2017!

Make plans now and enjoy a special early bird discount! Register at feast.icej.org
6-11 OCTOBER 2017
FEAST OF TABERNACLES
PRESENTED BY INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

CITY OF GOD SHARED

50 Years
JERUSALEM