A TESTIMONY OF HEALING

BY DR. JÜRGEN BÜHLER
Dear friends,

“Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.” (James 5:17)

Recently in Jerusalem we recounted how powerfully Jesus answered many of our prayers at the ICEJ staff meetings or through the Isaiah 62 Prayer Initiative. One of them was my own health situation, where we saw a powerful restoration. You will read about it in this issue and I pray that my testimony will encourage you to trust the Lord for a miracle in your own lives. As a family we want to express our gratitude to all those who stood with us in prayer.

Another amazing answer to prayer we saw was regarding the Ethiopian Aliyah which faced a number of obstacles. They have been removed, and Prime Minister Netanyahu finally gave the green light for the operation to begin in the coming weeks. A person working closely with the authorities called it a “huge miracle”. We know it was an answered prayer. The Ethiopian Aliyah is indeed a modern day miracle and we are privileged to take part in it. Please continue to pray for it and consider supporting it financially.

There were many more answered prayers that we counted with our staff and it all confirmed that God hears us and He wants us to bring our requests before Him. God does not expect us to be "spiritual superheroes" when we pray. Elijah, whom we consider a spiritual giant, was called by James an ordinary man just like you and me. But Elijah put his trust into God’s hands, thus God could do extraordinary things through this ordinary man.

I want to encourage you today to join our Isaiah 62 Prayer Initiative and become part of this powerful movement. Prayer lies at the core of our ministry and it touches the heart of God. One of the main burdens we currently carry in prayer is the Feast of Tabernacles. We hope you can join us in Jerusalem, but if you cannot attend, please stand with us in prayer! Pray that God would use this Feast in mighty ways. Visit our website at www.icej.org/prayer to pledge and join the Isaiah 62 initiative. I look forward to hearing from you!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ Executive Director
"I AM THE LORD WHO HEALS YOU"

A TESTIMONY OF HEALING

"BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL, AND FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS: WHO FORGIVES ALL YOUR INIQUITIES, WHO HEALS ALL YOUR DISEASES, WHO REDEEMS YOUR LIFE FROM DESTRUCTION." (PSALM 103:2-4)

BY DR. JÜRGEN BÜHLER
IN LATE NOVEMBER, I found myself at Shaarei Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem for what I thought were routine tests. A few days later, the doctor gave my wife, Vesna, and me the results: The diagnosis was advanced kidney cancer. According to the doctor the tumor was growing out from the kidney into the main vein and winding “like a snake” towards my heart. “The good news is,” he said, “that it is operable.” However, he immediately advised us to seek a hospital abroad, as very few Israeli doctors had the experience to treat such a rare and severe case.

My survival rate, in his estimation, was fifty percent, and even lower for a successful removal of the cancerous growth, as it had spread inside my abdomen. The serious expression on his face showed he did not have much hope for me.

For my family and I, that November morning changed everything. We had just celebrated a blessed and successful Feast of Tabernacles, and I was busy preparing for a symposium at the European Parliament in December. As a family, we anticipated welcoming home our son, David, at Christmas, during a break from his studies in Germany. In January, Vesna and I were scheduled to attend the Global Prayer Quake in Nigeria, and later that month, we anticipated that over 150 Pastors would join us at Envision, the ICEJ Pastors and Leaders Conference in Jerusalem.

In one single moment, everything stopped. All these plans came crashing down and the fervent pace of our lives was brought to a painful and grinding halt. In the hospital, Vesna and I cried together, and arriving home a few days later, I felt completely devastated. I clearly recall sitting on our sofa that first night, watching our children, and thinking: “This could be the last few months with my family.”

I knew my only hope was for Jesus to heal me. Still in hospital I asked Juha Ketola, my friend and ICEJ International Director, to mobilize our prayer network. Since doctors repeatedly referred to this cancerous “snake” in my body, both Vesna and I understood it was a spiritual problem, requiring a spiritual solution.

On my first morning home from the hospital, something supernatural happened: When I got up that morning I felt a change in my spirit, but it wasn’t just me. To my surprise, each member of our family felt a lifting of their spirit as well. It felt like God had flicked a switch, supernatural faith and peace came flooding into our hearts. This peace surpassed our understanding and was in total contradiction to my medical circumstances. Today we know this was the impact of prayers from our brothers and sisters around the world who carried us.

That morning, I suggested to Vesna that, for the next two weeks, we should open our home and invite our friends to share communion, pray with us, and trust God that “this snake” would leave my body. Vesna immediately agreed and for the next few weeks we hosted the most amazing prayer gatherings. The presence of Jesus was very tangible in those meetings and everybody who entered our home testified to it.

Both Messianic and Arab pastors from all over Israel visited us and were of great encouragement to us. Also the ICEJ staff were praying and fasting with us and joined us for the evening prayer and communion. It was truly humbling to find out that congregations in Israel and numerous believers around the world carried us in their prayers. Some of our ICEJ branches even initiated 24/7 prayer chains for this cause. Many letters and calls that reached us throughout that difficult time were a great source of strength.

Something that amazed me in this process was to see how other people who joined our evening meetings experienced healing themselves! Yet nothing seemed to be changing in my own body. We felt overcome by God’s supernatural peace, but my physical state remained unchanged. The follow-up scans only confirmed the initial, hopeless diagnosis.
In the midst of it, I learned to thank the Lord daily for the amazing wife He has given me. Time and time again Vesna proved to be a rock that stood firm in this stormy situation. Like a general, she was full of unwavering hope for victory, and encouraged the entire family.

Additionally, our children were blessed to be a part of the believing community in Jerusalem, that gave them much strength. The messianic school that our two youngest children attend prayed daily for our family with the entire student body. Some teachers fasted for us and visited with us for prayer as well. Our sons, Nethanel and Simon, attended a weekly prayer watch at Succat Hallel, a local prayer house. Many times they would return home having received affirmation from the Lord that their daddy would be healed. Our oldest son, David, had similar experiences at his Bible school in Bad Gandersheim, Germany.

Another great blessing to us was our congregation that we attend as a family. Our Pastors Oded and Sandy Shoshani with the entire community covered us in prayer, love and support. In addition we were blessed by the prayers and visits of many of our Jewish friends. Some even shared special prayer meetings in their synagogues.

This difficult season, for me personally, became a time of reviewing my life. Since the doctors felt my chances for survival were very limited, I began to look at my family, ministry and my own life with new eyes. God challenged me to look at it all from a new perspective. Although I wouldn’t have chosen this trial for myself, today I am very thankful to God for this time. I became more thankful and appreciative of the Body of Christ, both here in Israel and around the world, as I got to experience first-hand how much we need each other.

In late December, we found the right surgeon to perform my operation in Germany. Good friends from the German region of Saxony recommended a doctor in Dresden, a world expert in his field. To our relief, he agreed to perform the operation. The date was set for the end of January, and in the meantime we continued to pray and to gather in our home.

Upon our arrival in Dresden, Germany, we requested one final ultrasound – still believing for a miracle. The results however were very sobering. “We can’t recognize much,” said the doctor. “Everything is full of cancer.” The next morning, I was brought to the operating room. The surgery took much
longer than planned. Vesna called again and again to talk to
the doctor, only to receive the same response: “They are still
operating...” Finally, she was asked to come and was referred
to the ICU where the doctor welcomed her and asked her to sit
down in his office. “There were complications,” he informed
her. “Your husband lost a lot of blood, so we had to put him
in an induced coma, which could last several days.” Vesna
learned I received 25 units of blood and the specialist told
her it was one of the most complex operations he had done.
Nevertheless, to everyone’s surprise, I woke up the very next
morning, though still in a life-threatening condition.

One of the great lessons I took away from that particular
time was that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the great power of
salvation. After two months of facing almost certain death and
being in critical condition for 24 hours after surgery, I didn’t
know whether my body would recover. Today I can say with all
certainty that throughout this experience I didn’t fear death.
I knew with absolute certainty that Heaven was waiting to
welcome me. I pleaded with the Lord for healing, because I
knew my family needed me and I wanted another opportunity
to serve the Lord more fully. But there was no fear of death.

I appreciated this peace even more in the hospital where
I shared the recovery room with an elderly man who, also having undergone a serious
surgery, cried for help for fear of death. During the night
he called for his WWII comrades to help him, even for the
“Sondereinsatzkommando,” a notorious Nazi-unit, to get
him out. I realized that it is on the deathbed where our
philosophies and beliefs are tested. I came to personally
appreciate more than ever that there is only one Name
given to men which can take away the sting of death and
that name is Jesus.

The day after I woke up, a remarkable restoration started to
take place. Ten days after the operation I was permitted to
leave the hospital and just over two weeks later, my family
and I were on the airplane back to Israel. In March, I went
back to my doctor in Jerusalem, who had first diagnosed
me in November. I will never forget his face when he saw
me: His mouth dropped open, and a few seconds later a big
smile followed. “Jürgen, you are here!” he shouted. I realized
he did not expect me to come back. Another doctor told me:
“You have been walking for months with an angel of death
under your arm. But I know that you are people of faith.”

God did a miracle! After the first blood test I took in Israel, the
doctor said to me: “Jürgen, you have the blood of an eighteen
year old.” In April, I resumed my work at the ICEJ and my
latest check-up showed no signs of cancer! According to the
doctors diagnosis this was highly improbable. But God is
good! He is our healer. Isaiah 53:4-5 declares that He “bore
our srickesses” and that “by His stripes we are healed.” In
Exodus 15:26 God declares “I am the Lord who heals you.”
Literally, it says “I am the Lord your physician.”

During my battle with this sickness we made a decision
as a family. We said to Jesus, “You are our family doctor.”
This means whatever is happening, we will first seek
Him in prayer and consult with His expertise. In my
case, God referred me to an expert doctor in Germany.
Others who joined our prayer gatherings in Jerusalem
were healed instantly. We are blessed today to have better
medical care then ever and I am extremely thankful for the
medical staff both in Germany and in Israel. But the word
of God encourages us to seek Him first since our lives are in
His hands.

Whatever your situation is, I
want to encourage you to hold
fast to God’s promises. He is
the same yesterday, today and
forevermore. Somebody told
me recently, “Jürgen, I do not
have as many intercessors
as you did.” The truth is, it
takes just a touch of the hem of Jesus’ garment to make the
difference. One single prayer can make a difference. If you
want us to pray with you, I invite you to send us your prayer
request and we will intercede for you at our staff prayer
meetings here in Jerusalem.

I finally want to thank everyone who prayed and stood with
us. It was truly humbling to see the outpouring of love and
support that we received from so many places around the
world. God is a prayer-answering God, and He hears the cry
of His children. Thank you for standing with us. I want to
extend great thanks to Juha Ketola – who never lost faith –
and the entire ICEJ family, who stood with us in fasting and
prayer. I am blessed to work with each one of you in Jerusalem.

Please continue to pray for us: For continued health and
for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to fulfill all He has
called us to do here in Israel and in the nations.

With a thankful heart,

**Jürgen Bühler**, together with Vesna and children David,
Nethanel, Simon and Yael
In 1980, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ) was established to answer God’s call, “Comfort, comfort my people” (Is 40:1). When all international embassies left Jerusalem that same year, the founding of the ICEJ was warmly welcomed by both the government and the people of Israel.

Today the ICEJ has become a leading voice of Christian support for Israel. With offices in over 80 nations the ICEJ represents millions of Bible-believing Christians from around the world. From our headquarters in Jerusalem we strive to reach every sector of Israel’s society with God’s love, reaching out to all of Israel, irrespective of their ethnic or religious background. Around the world the ICEJ has become a major voice against anti-Semitism and anti-Israelism.

Whether our work is among holocaust survivors, new immigrants, youth at risk, the Druze community or Christian Arabs, the ICEJ is your Embassy in Jerusalem!

GIVE YOUR BEST GIFT TODAY!

Every financial gift, regardless of size, impacts the lives of Israelis and is a tangible demonstration of Christian compassion and love.

Go to www.icej.org/donate to make your contribution to the work of the ICEJ in Israel!

A QUICK LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF ICEJ

1980 The International Christian Embassy is established in Jerusalem
1981 The ICEJ launches the Mordechai Outcry demanding the release of Soviet Jewry
1985 The ICEJ launches first Christian Zionist Congress in Basel Switzerland
1991 The ICEJ receives Knesset Award for outstanding service to Israel
1992 The ICEJ partners with Israel in rescuing 13,000 Ethiopian Jews in “Operation Solomon”
2001 The ICEJ produces biblical musical called “The Covenant” at the Jerusalem Arts Festival. This production travels the whole of Israel, Europe and the USA.
2003 The ICEJ begins a young adult ministry called Grafted (later name changed to Arise)
GET INVOLVED

At its core, the ICEJ is people like you - with a God-given passion for the people of Israel, who work together to accomplish what they could never do alone.

Our outreach through print publication, social media, satellite and cable TV reaches into almost every country in the world, touching thousands of believers with God’s heart for Israel every single day.

The core of our ministry:

1. To show concern for the Jewish people and especially for the reborn State of Israel.
2. To mobilize Christians to pray for Jerusalem, Israel and the region.
3. To demonstrate practical Christian love for the well-being of all who live here, irrespective of race, background or religion.
4. To be a reconciling influence between Jews and Arabs.
5. To inform Christians from all over the world of what is taking place in Israel and how to be rightly related to her.
6. To empower Christian leaders, churches and organizations to fight modern day anti-Semitism.
7. To represent the love and concern of Bible-believing Christians from around the world towards the modern state and people of Israel.

40 staff serve at the ICEJ headquarters in Jerusalem coming from 16 nations

120 nations join us in prayer for Israel each month

125,000 Jews have been assisted by the ICEJ to make Aliyah

5,000 Christians from 100 nations join us every year to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles

ICEJ events held throughout the year bring people from around the world to Israel to be challenged and inspired. From the Feast of Tabernacles to Envision Pastors and Leaders Conference, delegates return to their communities with a fresh perspective on Israel and the role they can play in God’s master plan.

Whether it is the ICEJ Home for Holocaust survivors, our assistance with Aliyah and absorption, the outreach for youth at risk, help for minorities in Israel, educational programs for the needy – these are all practical opportunities to show YOUR love and concern for the Jewish people.

Come and join the ICEJ family and experience what God is doing in Israel. Explore how He may use you personally to comfort His people. The work of the ICEJ is a practical, hands-on way to comfort God’s people one at a time. Join us today!

2004
The ICEJ becomes a founding member of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus

2006
A strategic partnership is established between the ICEJ and the Yad Vashem Institute

2009
The ICEJ sponsors and opens the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors

2012
ICEJ TV is launched, reaching tens of thousands of people each week

2014
The ICEJ introduces ENVISION - Pastors and Leaders Conference in Jerusalem

2015
The ICEJ sponsors the Brussels Symposium at the European Parliament
EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

BY ADAM ELIJAH GABELI

Arise Summer Tour 2016 brought together a colorful representation from over 11 different nations, including a former Muslim from Azerbaijan. The young adults arrived in the Holy Land expecting a unique encounter with the God of Israel and encountering the Lord is exactly what happened, although in many unexpected ways! The group enjoyed this journey of discovery lead by Jani Salokangas, Director of ICEJ Arise, who made sure the participants got to see both the uniqueness of the land of Israel, as well as its spiritual significance.

THE JOURNEY

The crew of ICEJ Arise wanted to give the young people a comprehensive look at the great nation of Israel from many different angles. Starting in the booming metropolis of Tel Aviv, participants enjoyed jumping into the Mediterranean for the first time in their lives and were shocked to see the modern beachfront and promenade in this vibrant city. Next, we headed south through the Negev desert, paused at the Ramon Crater to take in the breathtaking views, and finished in the very South of the country: The city of Eilat. On the agenda in Eilat was snorkeling in the Red Sea and admiring Israel’s famous coral reefs, as well as a visit to Timna National Park, with its replica of the biblical tabernacle.

Along the route from Eilat, by the way of the Dead Sea, we stopped for a night in the Negev, experienced Bedouin life, and worshipped under the stars. Afterwards, Tiberias by the Sea of Galilee became the base for several forays into the north over the next few days. This included visits to many biblical sites in the Galilee, as well as the Golan Heights, near the border with Syria. Finally, we capped off the last four days of the tour ascending to Jerusalem, the pinnacle of our journey. Some highlights of this capital city included the Old City of Jerusalem, Garden Tomb, and Yad Vashem museum.

In short, the group saw Israel from east to west, north to south. From swimming in every major body of water in Israel to tasting each climate zone, participants experienced life in Israel in many unexpected ways!

THE EXPERIENCE

In the midst of sightseeing, swimming and fun, the Lord profoundly impacted each participant. From the first day, prayer and worship was central to the tour. This group of almost 60 passionate young people praying and declaring the goodness of God all over Israel and the surrounding nations was bound to have spiritual effects reaching far beyond what meets the eye.
Two powerful highlights stick out in my memory. One was ascending the mountains outside Eilat to pray for Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Then in the Golan Heights we went up Mount Bental to intercede for Lebanon and war-torn Syria. What a meaningful experience! Mathieu, a Bible College student from Winnipeg, Canada, said this was “one of the most memorable highlights of the trip” for him, as it was for many others. It was also incredible for everyone to witness the first-time baptisms of nine young people in the Jordan River. Shouts of rejoicing and tears of joy resounded through the Yardenit Baptismal Site while all the voices sang out ‘10,000 Reasons’ and ‘How Great is our God’ as the young men and women publicly declared their love for Jesus.

Participants’ eyes were opened to the reality of life for a believer in Israel as well, with all its struggles and joys. A beautiful Shabbat dinner was shared in Jerusalem, where we learned some songs and traditions from the light of a new covenant in Yeshua (Hebrew name of Jesus). Finally, at the headquarters of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, advocacy training was given to equip them to stand with Israel and combat modern-day anti-Semitism in their home countries.

THE LEGACY
By the end of the trip, the love for Israel, its people and for one another abounded. With the participants’ expectations blown out of the water and strong, new relationships created, the Arise Summer Tour 2016 came to a close, and a group of zealous young believers left the Land of Promise ready to tell the world about the unexpected miracle that is the modern state of Israel.

DO NOT MISS the exciting opportunity to see the land of Israel with other like-minded young adults!

Dates for Arise Summer Tour 2017 coming soon! Follow Arise ICEJ on facebook for latest info!
THE MESSIAH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE LIGHT OF RABBINICAL WRITINGS
BY RISTO SANTALA

This ground-breaking book is the first study of its kind written in modern Hebrew by a Gentile scholar. It has already seen five Hebrew editions in Israel. The book serves as a powerful guide by a leading Old Testament scholar on finding the Messiah in both the Hebrew Bible and the rabbinic writings of Israel’s ancient sages. It will help every Christian to unlock New Testament truths through an enhanced understanding of the culture and context of the Old Testament.

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A CHRISTIAN GUIDE TO THE JEWISH FESTIVAL OF SUKKOT
BY PETRA VAN DER ZANDE

Leviticus 23:40-44 “And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. You shall dwell in booths for seven days.” Most people associate Sukkot only with the sukkah. But this holiday is much, much more. A Christian Guide to the Jewish Festival of Sukkot, or Feast of Tabernacles, will give you a deeper appreciation for this Biblical Holiday.

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**JERUSALEM NOTEBOOK**

This notebook comes in two different colors; black, white. The edges are gold colored and the pages (140) are lined - pages of high quality Italian paper, 16 x 16 cm. Cover style - hard cover luxuriously embellished with the skyline of Jerusalem and ICEJ’s logo in a gold color.

**30 USD + FREE SHIPPING**

**JERUSALEM COMPASS**

The Jerusalem Compass instead of pointing north points only in the direction of Jerusalem from any point on the globe. Fashioned from pure solid brass, the lid is deeply embossed in the center with a Jewish Star of David and the words “Jerusalem” in Hebrew and English. The outer edges are encircled with a delicate floral design of Pomegranates.

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Go to: ICEJSTORE.COM and use the discount code: **WFJ2016ICEJ** The special 10% discount for your purchases at the Embassy Resources is valid throughout the year 2016.
Thank God for His hand of blessing and protection over Israel, and pray His glorious plans for this nation will be hastened in its time (Isaiah 60:22).

PRAY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
Meantime, the numerous conflicts raging in the surrounding countries now include civil wars and insurgencies in Libya, Yemen, the Egyptian Sinai, Iraq and – worst of all – in Syria. Because the US administration has backed away in recent years from its traditional regional allies and instead courted Iran, many Sunni Arab leaders are looking elsewhere for an anchor of support, and increasingly they are turning to Israel.

In recent months Egypt’s foreign minister paid a rare visit to Jerusalem, while key Saudi figures have been discreetly opening contacts with Israeli officials. But this newfound cooperation, while based on mutual interests, can only go so far without a peace deal between Israel and the Palestinians.

Knowing this, the Palestinian leadership is trying to scuttle any rapprochement between Jerusalem and the pro-Western Sunni bloc.

Pray the Palestinians would finally have the courage and will to make peace with Israel (Psalm 34:14; 1 Peter 3:11). Also, pray that Israel would enjoy better relations with its moderate Sunni Arab neighbors, and the threats posed by Iran and ISIS would be completely dispelled (Psalm 68). As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; As wax melts before the fire...” (Psalm 68:1-2). Lastly, pray that God’s redemptive purposes for the region would quickly come to pass (Isaiah 19:23-15).

PRAY FOR THE ICEJ
Thank you for praying with us for the Ethiopian Aliyah – God is answering already! The government of Israel opened the doors for the Jews in Ethiopia to return home. Let’s continue praying that their journey will happen swiftly and go smoothly.

We also ask you to pray for the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles in October, and for all the pilgrims as they make plans to attend this year’s celebration in Jerusalem. The Psalmist said: “Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage... They go from strength to strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.” (Psalm 84:5, 7)

Please pray that everyone whose heart desires to be at this year’s Feast would be able to come and indeed encounter the living God in Zion. ☺️

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:

• Join as an individual prayer warrior at www.icej.org/isaiah62
• Begin an Isaiah 62 prayer group in your community
• Join us in fasting and praying on behalf of Israel every month
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REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT AND RECEIVE NEW VISION FOR YOUR MINISTRY AND CALLING!
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The fate of the last Ethiopian Jews, called the Falashmura, has been some of the most fascinating chapters in modern Jewish history. After some 2700 years an ancient tribe of Israel finally returns to their homeland. But it has also been one of the most difficult chapters and until today, their return to Israel is an Aliyah journey filled with challenges.

The story of Takele is one of many stories of Ethiopian Jews. Takele made this journey at the age of 17, and still remembers the many threats he faced coming to Israel. Like numerous other Ethiopian Jews, he set out from his village on foot along an often-used escape route through Sudan. The month-long journey was dangerous and mostly he walked at night: in a Muslim country like Sudan, Jews if captured, could be killed on the spot. Thankfully he found shelter in a refugee camp in Sudan.

After waiting for an entire year Takele finally made it to Israel. To arrive in Tel Aviv, the modern, technologically-highly advanced city, was shockingly different from his remote village in Ethiopia. Everything was different: the culture, education system, job market, not to mention the language. As a man of faith, Takele was surprised to discover not all Jews were religiously observant. And not all Jewish people were black!

Takele quickly realized he needed an education to survive this new environment, and went on to successfully complete engineering studies and then serve in the Israeli Air Force. Despite his personal success, Takele remained deeply concerned for his community, where many of the new Ethiopian immigrants were not successfully integrating into the society.

Today Takele is one of the many Ethiopian Social workers the ICEJ partners with to assist Ethiopian Jews with their absorption process.

Join us as we write the final chapters of the Ethiopian Aliyah to Israel! Give your most generous gift to the Ethiopian Aliyah today! www.icej.org/ethiopia

Learn more about the Ethiopian Aliyah from the ICEJ Report online. Visit www.icej.org/aliyah to watch our latest video on this unique endeavor! You can watch this and other ICEJ Reports every week on Israel Now News on Daystar Television Network. For air times please check the network’s website.

ICEJ TV IS YOUR WINDOW TO ISRAEL! For more information and to support this vital ministry, visit: www.icej.tv
For decades the remaining Jews in Ethiopia wondered whether they would ever be reunited with their families in Israel. Recent political and economic unrest caused added pressure to their hardship. Gondar and Oromia, the region where the majority of Jews live, is currently stricken by deadly violence of indigenous tribes that has left almost 100 dead. Many of the Jews have already fled. Often by foot they travel hundreds of kilometres to the city of Addis Ababa where many of them are living today under difficult circumstances.

After many decades of waiting, last year the Israeli government finally agreed that it would allow the last 9,000 Falashmura to return to Israel. There was great rejoicing among the Jewish community in Ethiopia. But the mood was quickly dampened as the Israeli government failed to include the absorption of Ethiopian Jews into their annual budget. To absorb thousands of Jews is a massive challenge, as huge sums are needed to educate and integrate a community that is far more distant from Israeli education than any other Jewish community in the world.

But in August this year, after a 21 hour-long budget meeting, the Absorption of Ethiopian Jews was allocated into the government budget! From now on every year some 1,400 Falashmura will be welcomed to Israel with the Israeli government guaranteeing specially secured grants for every family and special educational programs for the new arrivals.

According to the Jewish Agency, the first arrivals could take place in the coming weeks as an initial group of 90 was already pre-approved last year. Our prayers are, that they will arrive even before the Sukkot celebrations. Then from November a continuous flow of immigrants is expected from Ethiopia.

The Lord placed on our heart earlier this year to pledge the funds for the flights of the first 500 Jews. Each flight ticket costs around 800US$. We thank God that through your generosity we have reached that target. But as the government budget did not include the transport to Israel more help is needed.

Please continue to stand with us. It would be a marvellous testimony if all of the 1400 flights could be covered by Christians around the world. What we see today could be the last chapter of the Ethiopian Aliyah. We are privileged to be a part of writing these pages. Please stand with us in this historic task!
Many new immigrants arrive in Israel after escaping harsh conditions in their countries of origin, such as war-torn Ukraine, only to quickly face the long and difficult process of adapting to a new home culture. They must learn the Hebrew language to find employment, and set up a household with basic items for their families.

Faced with unexpected challenges many new immigrants wonder whether moving to Israel was not a mistake. The prophet Amos declares that in these last days God is planting his people into the land and they shall not be uprooted again. Whether through vocational training for new immigrants, as well as many other much-needed services the ICEJ wants to ensure that they will not be uprooted again.

Just recently on a visit to an Absorption Center in Beer Sheva, the ICEJ presented a special gift donated by Christian friends from different parts of the world to 48 new immigrants from Russia and Ukraine, many of whom were doctors or from other medical backgrounds. ICEJ Aid Director Nicole Yoder told the immigrants how exciting it was to see them in the Promised Land: “When I open my Bible, it says that one day you would come back here. And we see this happening right now!” Then she added: “These gifts were sent specially to you by Christians who want to bless you and it comes from their heart.”

Elena S., a doctor from Russia, explained that she came to Israel first, while her husband and children joined her months later. She is optimistic about finding a job after finishing the absorption program, which includes a professional course for medical doctors.

Your gift to the work of ICEJ ensures that many new immigrants have room and board upon arrival, receive professional courses, Hebrew classes and more. Together we can give them a positive start in their new land.

Partner with us and participate in the restoration of the People of Israel! Your financial gift to ICEJ Aid is vital in this work! // www.icej.org/aid
In the 1990s, when ICEJ’s Homecare Department was asked by a Russian Jewish family to help care for Golda, their 87-year-old grandmother, a relationship began which stretched across generations. Three times a week, the ICEJ nurses faithfully provided basic nursing care for a sweet lady, who could also be a challenge to care for as age and illness advanced.

However, a story unfolded that made worthwhile all the loving care they gave. One day, a granddaughter who was brought up by Golda, mentioned some things from her grandmother’s past. Although Golda had already passed away at age 93 with the whole story untold, ICEJ Homecare nurse Corrie knew it was a story that should be remembered. Corrie wondered if Golda’s daughter, Valentina, would be able to fill in the blanks. Though hesitant at first, Valentina agreed and so during one visit, in bursts of painful recollections, the story of this Jewish immigrant family slowly came to light.

When the Nazis invaded Golda’s hometown in the Ukraine, she managed to flee. Along the way she learned her family home had been completely destroyed. Her husband had been killed in the war, so she made a new home for herself and her two daughters in another part of the Soviet Union. Shortly after the war ended, when the girls were 10 and 5-years-old respectively, another event – typical during the Communist era – changed their lives once again: Their neighbours falsely accused Golda of a crime she did not commit and reported her to the police. She was sent to prison for three years and upon being released, was not allowed to get her girls back.

Valentina, now 74, still remembers the twelve years she was forced to spend in an orphanage. The long years were filled with bitter cold and hunger and a sense of loneliness and abandonment. Later, divorce and economic hardship meant that in order to seek employment, she had to relinquish most of her daughter’s upbringing to a kinder environment - Grandmother Golda’s care.

Finally, at the age of 85 Golda made Aliyah to Israel, along with her two daughters and their children. Soon afterwards ICEJ Homecare became an essential part of their lives. Valentina remembers with delight the family’s enjoyment of ICEJ Homecare’s visits. When both her mother and older sister died, and much-loved nephew and family returned to Russia, her life in her older years was not one of ease. Homecare’s love and support is still required, which Corrie joyfully gives, fulfilling ICEJ’s mandate of comforting the Jewish people.

Though speaking of her difficult past was upsetting to Valentina, the qualms vanished when she held on to Corrie, long-time friend also having been the caregiver of her mom.

With your support, the ICEJ can continue to be a tangible expression of Christian love for Israel. Your gift to ICEJ Homecare will support this worthy cause! To give, visit our website today: www.icej.org/homecare
Malcolm Hedding, ICEJ’s International Spokesperson, recently had the honor of being invited to attend and be a keynote speaker at Yad Vashem’s International Leadership Conference from the 6th to the 12th of July 2016. This was the first time a Christian was called upon to make the address at the closing event of the Conference. The first three days of the conference were held in Poland; the event then moved to Yad Vashem’s impressive facility in Jerusalem, Israel, for the final three days.

This year’s event was attended mostly by Jewish leaders, academics, donors and supporters of Yad Vashem from five nations of the world, with a small contingent of Christians also joining the initiative. The event was planned and executed mainly by the office of Shaya Ben Yehuda, General Manager of International Relations at Yad Vashem, which includes Susanna Kokkonen, head of the Christian Desk at Yad Vashem.

The purpose of this conference was to once again, or in some cases for the first time, expose attendees to the industrialized killing machine of the Nazis during the Second World War. As attendees toured the towns of Wroclaw, Bedzin, Krakow and the awful death camps of Auschwitz and Auschwitz Birkenau, the nature and scope of this evil was truly laid bare for all to see. Attendees then journeyed to Israel, where they were received by President Reuven Rivlin at his official residence, and then later given access to Yad Vashem’s many activities including the archives and the School of Holocaust Studies.

Malcolm Hedding was given the distinct honor to be chosen as the closing dinner’s keynote speaker. Over four hundred guests attended the event, including Rabbi Lau, Chief Rabbi of Israel Emeritus, Avner Shalev, the Chairman of the Yad Vashem Directorate, the senior staff of Yad Vashem and important guests from Jerusalem and beyond. In his speech, Malcolm Hedding stressed the Christian responsibility for the tragedies during the time of the Holocaust, but also mentioned the many priests and pastors who were imprisoned during the Second World War for standing with the Jewish people. Malcolm’s speech was very warmly received and served to strengthen the ties between the ICEJ and Yad Vashem. Dr. Jürgen Buehler, the Executive Director of the ICEJ, was present and remarked, “Malcolm’s speech was truly inspiring and historical. Indeed, a highlight of the event!” 🌟

Christian Friends of Yad Vashem is a strategic partner of the ICEJ. Together we work to further Holocaust remembrance and education in Christian communities. To support this essential work of the ICEJ, visit: www.icej.org/yadvashem
Without thinking twice, nine-year-old Mordechai left his mother’s side and ran into the woods. He would never see her again, never call her “Mommy” or feel the warmth of a motherly embrace.

“They destroyed our childhood, they deprived us of our childhood. We had nothing to play with, no toys... nothing that is considered basic for every child in the world,” he painfully recalled. It wasn’t just a month or two of hiding; the war lasted five more years! “Every day you have to fight for your life,” he added.

Mordechai and other orphans wandered across Europe, finally arriving in France where they boarded a boat to Haifa. But their difficult journey was not over. The British fleet blocked their access to the harbor in Haifa and redirected the ship to Cyprus, where passengers were detained in a refugee camp.

Released by Youth Aliyah eight months later, Mordechai finally reached his promised land! Since most new immigrants were orphans, they were dispersed across the country to various Kibbutzim to live with other Jewish families. Mordechai learned to drive a tractor on his Kibbutz and, after fighting in the War of Independence, he became a contractor for the army.

“When I say we built this country, it’s not just a slogan,” Mordechai adds with a smile, explaining how he built many roads across Israel. “I was developing the country all along, building it with my own hands.”

For many Holocaust survivors in the latter part of their years it becomes difficult to live on their own. That’s where the ICEJ’s Home for Holocaust Survivors comes in. The staff take care of their needs and a nurse is on call to make sure they stay healthy.

Mordechai and the 70 other Holocaust survivors receive daily care at this special home thanks to partners like you. We could not maintain the ICEJ’s Home for Holocaust Survivors without your financial support. Go to icej.org/Haifa and give your best gift today!

You can listen to Mordechai share his story with ICEJ TV by following this link: www.icej.org/icej-report-mordechai
Watch this and other ICEJ Reports every week on Israel Now News on Daystar Television Network. For air times please check the network’s website.

ICEJ TV IS YOUR WINDOW TO ISRAEL! For more information and to support this vital ministry, visit: www.icej.tv
In July, the Global Forum on Anti-Semitism (GFCA), traditionally a biennial event in Jerusalem, was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the first time. ICEJ was an event sponsor, represented by Barry R. Denison, ICEJ General Manager, and Pastor Dr. Luis Fernando Solares B., ICEJ Guatemala National Director for over 18 years. Denison spoke in a plenary session and co-led one of the working groups.

This was also the first time a Christian organization, Hispanic Israel Leadership Coalition (HILC), cohosted this important event. Parliamentarians and 250 leaders from 17 countries gathered to assess the state of anti-Semitism globally and formulate effective forms of societal and governmental response. The conference was organized by previously-mentioned HILC, the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Latin American Jewish Congress, regional chapter of the World Jewish Congress.

This historic conference saw the Evangelical community united with the Jewish community in this important fight against anti-Semitism, strongly supported by the ICEJ.

One significant conference event gathered participants in the street to commemorate 22 years since the Jewish Community Center of Buenos Aires was bombed. Twenty-two years later, no charges were ever brought against any individual or organization, and no one has been held responsible for this brutal attack. Join ICEJ as we stand against anti-Semitism around the world.

The ICEJ-USA branch hosted its summer conference in June, with hundreds gathering from all over the country in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for a wonderful time of praise, worship and biblical teaching under the theme “Come Let Us Go Up To The Mountain of the Lord.” Featured speakers included Susan Michael, ICEJ-USA national director and David Parsons representing the Jerusalem head office. Popular recording artist Paul Wilbur thrilled the crowd with a musical concert featuring songs from his new album, while Claren and Nancy McQueen were also on hand to lead worship.

Parsons then traveled around the country on a speaking tour which included stops in Florida, Georgia, Ohio, North Carolina and Virginia. One highlight was a special diplomatic luncheon in Atlanta with Ambassador Judith Varnai Shorer, Israeli representative to the Southeast, which was hosted by John and Sally Howard of the ICEJ-USA advisory board.

Many attending these events expressed concern regarding the recent rift in America’s relations with Israel and its impact on the current US elections. In that regard, the ICEJ-USA branch has launched an initiative challenging the presidential candidates to stand with Israel.
At the end of July, Rev. Juha Ketola, ICEJ International Director was privileged to visit the country where missionary and explorer David Livingstone first set his feet about 150 years earlier: The Republic of Malawi, one of the smallest countries on the African continent. There, in the capital city of Lilongwe, Ketola appointed Professor and Rev. Tuweh Gadama as ICEJ Malawi Representative. Ketola met with one of the longest serving MPs in the country, MP Uladi Mussa, and also current Malawi Government member, Minister Atupele Muluzi.

ICEJ INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR HONORED IN MALAWI

During the visit to Malawi, ICEJ International Director Juha Ketola was awarded an honorary doctorate degree for his ministry over the years and around the world, including on the continent of Africa.

“It was a great joy and a humbling experience for me to receive an Honorary Doctor of Ministry award for my service in the Kingdom of God since I committed my life to full time ministry for the Lord Jesus more than three decades ago,” said Ketola.

ICEJ West Africa Representative Rev. and Dr. Abdou Maiga received an Academic PhD of Religion Science. Over the last four years the ICEJ has reached 18 new nations in different parts of the world to help connect the Church with Israel!

NEW ICEJ REPRESENTATIVE IN MALAWI

SPREADING THE BIBLICAL MESSAGE IN THE BALKANS

As a member of the ICEJ Board, Mojmir Kallus travelled to several countries in southeast Europe to establish new contacts for the ICEJ and strengthen the existing branch in Croatia. As a result, new representatives were appointed for Serbia, Bulgaria and Albania, and promising new relationships were established in Montenegro, Bosnia and Macedonia. The Lord has opened a big door for the work of the ICEJ in that region.

During his visit to Croatia, where ICEJ is represented by Nebojsa and Nevenka Duric, and Serbia, where Rodoljub Orescanin became a new ICEJ representative, Kallus spoke at eight events and met with many church leaders. Orescanin organized a conference at the Protestant Theological Seminary in Novi Sad, a city considered the center of Evangelical Christians in Serbia. The event was well attended and attracted good media coverage on national television.

Later Kallus travelled to Bulgaria and appointed Ivan Hazarbassanov, pastor of a Word of Life church in Sofia, as ICEJ representative for Bulgaria. Hazarbassanov was one of the first graduates of the Yad Vashem seminars for Christian leaders. In Albania, Kallus appointed new ICEJ representative Gentjan Dervishaj, pastor and overseer of the Ray of Light churches. Kallus was greatly encouraged by the openness of the local Albanian church towards Israel.

We are encouraged and inspired by what the God of Israel is doing in this unique region of Europe. To support the international work of the ICEJ, visit: www.icej.org/international
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