



WORD

FROM JERUSALEM



OUTCASTS & ORPHANS

THE REAL STORY OF THE MODERN-DAY JEWISH
RETURN TO ISRAEL



The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was established in 1980 in recognition of the biblical significance of all of Jerusalem and its unique connection to the Jewish people. Today the ICEJ represents millions of Christians, churches, and denominations to the nation and people of Israel. We recognize in the restoration of Israel the faithfulness of God to keep His ancient covenant with the Jewish people. Our main objectives are:

- To stand with Israel in support and friendship;
- To equip and teach the worldwide church regarding God's purposes with Israel and the nations of the Middle East;
- To be an active voice of reconciliation between Jews, Christians, and Arabs, and to support the churches and congregations in the Holy Land.

From its head offices in Jerusalem, the ICEJ reaches out into more than 170 countries worldwide, with branch offices in over 90 nations.

Our vision is:

- To reach every segment of Israel's society with a Christian testimony of comfort and love, and
- To reach and actively represent to Israel the support of denominations, churches, and believers from every nation on earth.

The Christian Embassy is a non-denominational faith-based ministry supported by the voluntary contributions of our partners and friends across the globe. We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by donating to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.



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INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM - USA

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Friends,

The COVID pandemic has gathered new momentum in recent months, and another wave is paralyzing international travel, including to Israel. I cannot help but think of the times of Elijah when a three-year drought visited Israel. This was a season when God tried to catch Israel's attention to hear His voice and turn His people's lives back to Him. Scripture tells us that the days of Elijah will come again before the Lord's return.

As this magazine arrives in your home, we are just about to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem under the theme "The Days of Elijah." We had hoped so much to welcome Feast pilgrims to Jerusalem this year, but unfortunately, travel to Israel is again greatly restricted. But like last year, this will not stop us from celebrating the Feast.

We do this for one simple reason: the Feast of Tabernacles is not the feast of the ICEJ, but the Bible calls it a "feast of the Lord" (Leviticus 23:4). And while He commands Israel to always keep this festival, He invites the nations to join them, as well (Zechariah 14:16).

The good news is that while you may not be able to come to Jerusalem, we will bring the Feast to you! You can watch it at home with your family, with your Bible study or prayer group, or in your church. With God's help, we will again use the latest technology to bring you the Feast in the best quality possible.

We will come to you from Qumran in the Judean desert, the Sea of Galilee, and from the steps of the ancient temple in Jerusalem, among other places. Great servants of God from around the world will join us: Lou Engle, Angus Buchan, Mike Bickle, Philip Mantofa, and Mosy Madugba are just some of the powerful speakers who will share the word. They will be joined by anointed worship leaders from Israel and the nations. You surely will be blessed as we expect timely and challenging revelations on the ministry of Elijah and what it means for our day.

I am particularly excited that you can participate in the 24/7 prayer chain, which will run during the entire Feast. Last year, we heard amazing testimonies of answered prayers, even on a national scale, and we expect God to work mightily even more this year!

One last thing about the Feast of Tabernacles: God calls it "an appointed time" (*mo'ed* in Hebrew). This means God has entered a fixed time to meet with His people on His heavenly calendar. Last year, even as people watched the Feast by computer, TV screen, or mobile device, we heard many testimonies of how the Lord's presence filled their rooms. God surely will keep His appointed time this year too—no matter where you live. You don't want to miss it!

You can register until the very last day of the Feast on September 27, and the content will remain available to you for three full months afterward. Just go to: on.icej.org/FOT2021.

I look forward to welcoming you to this year's online Feast on "The Days of Elijah!"

God bless you as you read this issue. And see you at the Feast of Tabernacles!

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
President
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

COVER PHOTO: New immigrants arriving in Israel from South Africa.

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*"The Lord, has founded Zion, and the poor
of His people shall take refuge in it."*

-Isaiah 14:32-

OUTCASTS AND ORPHANS

THE REAL STORY OF THE MODERN-DAY JEWISH RETURN TO ISRAEL

BY DAVID PARSONS

ICEJ VICE PRESIDENT & SENIOR SPOKESMAN



Late in July, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem welcomed another Aliyah flight bearing Jewish families making their way home to Israel. This flight came from Paris with 160 French Jews on board—ICEJ sponsored the flights for 32 of these newcomers, who hope to start a new life in the Jewish state away from the rising tide of anti-Semitism in France.

Some may wonder why French Jews need help with the costs of their flights to Israel. The general perception is that France is a well-to-do country, and most French Jews can afford the move to Israel. In reality, most of the old-line native French Jewish community was wiped (or chased) out of France during World War II and its aftermath. Of the remaining 500,000 Jews in France today, nearly three-fourths of them come from families who escaped to there from North Africa during colonial uprisings in the region two generations ago. And with them came many Arab Muslim immigrants, who settled alongside the Jewish refugees from Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia in the same poor neighborhoods of Paris, Marseilles, and other large French cities.

Today, many of these North African Jewish and Arab refugee families still live side-by-side in these same crowded, poor neighborhoods where they still struggle to make ends meet. And over the past two decades, the Jewish families in these areas have come under the increasing threat of anti-Semitism, especially as many young French Muslims have been drawn into radical Islam and jihadism.

Even in more prospering areas of France, Jews have felt under siege, especially since the terror assault on the Charlie Hebdo magazine offices and the deadly hostage standoff at the Hyper Cache kosher supermarket in Paris in 2015. As with many other Jewish communities across Europe, Jewish synagogues, day schools, museums, and community centers in France have become like fortresses, with metal detectors and heavily armed guards posted outside.

As a result, nearly 250,000 Jews have left France since around the year 2000, when

violent protests erupted against Israel and Jews at the outset of the second Palestinian intifada. Some of these Jewish émigrés have opted to join the growing French Jewish enclaves in Canada, Australia, or the United States, but a rising number have chosen Israel as a safer location for them. And many of those coming to Israel right now tend to be from these more impoverished, vulnerable Jewish neighborhoods and are the least able to afford the expenses of moving to another country. So they need our help, and it is our privilege and even our moral duty to assist them on their way home to Israel.

In truth, most of the nearly four million Jews who have returned home to Israel over the past 140 years have been poor and in great need of assistance. It began in the 1880s when Jews from southern Russia decided to flee repeated



pogroms by simply leaving everything behind and starting to walk toward Jerusalem—they knew the direction because they had always prayed facing the holy city. At about that same time, remnants of the ancient Yemenite Jewish community felt the same drawing toward the promised land and began walking to Zion with few possessions in hand.

This fit the vision of the last-days ingathering of Israel proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah: “What will they answer the messengers of the nation? That the LORD has founded Zion, and the poor of His people shall take refuge in it” (Isaiah 14:32). This has turned out to be an extremely accurate prophetic word.

After Israel gained its independence in 1948, the young nation prioritized bringing in all the beleaguered Jewish refugees from Europe who had been denied entry under the British Mandate. The focus was on the 250,000 Holocaust Survivors still stuck in displacement camps across Europe. These were primarily European Jews who had lost everything in the Nazi Holocaust—not only their homes and wealth but their families too. Many were left without a single living relative. So a wave of penniless orphans was absorbed into an already struggling country of 660,000 people.

In his book *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel*, journalist Ari Shavit writes about how the state of Israel was established by European Jews who were orphaned by the Holocaust. Many of their parents and grandparents sent them ahead to Palestine in the 1930s but never made it themselves. Others rebelled against their parents and traveled to *Eretz Israel* on their own and never saw their parents again.

“Zionism was an orphans’ movement, a desperate crusade of Europe’s orphans,” writes Shavit. “As the unwanted sons and daughters of the Christian continent fled the hatred of their surrogate mother, they discovered they were all alone in the world. . . . Having lost one civilization, they had to construct another. Having lost their homeland, they had to invent another. That is why they came to Palestine and why they now cling to the land with such desperate determination.”

These mainly Ashkenazi Jews from European backgrounds then faced a new and sudden crisis. Following Israel’s victory in the 1948 War of Independence, many Arab and Islamic countries began expelling Jewish communities that had lived in their countries for over 2,000 years. In the early 1950s, more than 800,000 Sephardic Jews (of Spanish and Middle Eastern origins) began flooding into Israel, many by foot. They came from Morocco to Iran, stripped of all possessions. Many had left behind large

villas and estates and lucrative businesses, only to live in tents for the next several years. There were social tensions between Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews early on, yet the nation successfully managed to absorb this massive wave of destitute refugees.

The next major wave of Aliyah came when the Soviet Union collapsed, opening the door for over one million Russian-speaking Jews to come home to Israel during the 1990s. As they left their former nations, authorities severely limited the amount of money and goods they could take with them. When neighbors found out they were moving to Israel, no one wanted to pay anything for their homes, knowing it could be gotten on the cheap once they left. Stories abound of these Soviet Jewish *Olim* throwing their last few rubles and kopeks on the tarmac once they landed at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Still today, many Jews are making Aliyah to Israel who are struggling and need help in re-starting their lives in the land of promise. Not all of them can afford the move and the rebuilding of their lives from scratch. So we should be there to help, knowing that Israel, after all, is a nation built by orphans and outcasts regathered from nations who had always rejected them. Indeed, “The LORD has founded Zion, and the poor of His people shall take refuge in it” (Isaiah 14:32). 🇮🇱

Please support the ICEJ’s ongoing Aliyah efforts. Donate today at: www.icejusa.org/aliyah

ICEJ SPONSORS ALIYAH FLIGHTS FOR FRENCH JEWS

BY DAVID PARSONS

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem helped to sponsor a special charter flight of 160 French Jewish immigrants who landed at Ben-Gurion Airport in late July, hoping to start a new life away from the rising antisemitism in France.

The chartered flight was arranged by The Jewish Agency for Israel and the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration and was funded by leading Jewish and Christian donor organizations, including the ICEJ, which sponsored seats for 32 of the new arrivals.

ICEJ representatives were on the tarmac to welcome the French *Olim*, along with Israel's Minister of Aliyah Pnina Tamano-Shata, MK Yair Golan, Keren HaYesod World Chairman Sam Grundwerg, and JAFI's interim chairman Yaakov Goel, among other dignitaries.



ICEJ joining Israeli officials on the tarmac to welcome French Olim.

Tamano-Shata, who made Aliyah herself from Ethiopia at age three, also accompanied the new immigrants on the flight from Paris after spending several days in the French capital with government officials and Jewish community leaders to assess the current situation for French Jewry.

France is still home to the second-largest Jewish community outside of Israel (after the United States), with an estimated 500,000 members.



Families with young children arrive at Ben Gurion Airport on a special charter flight of 160 French Jewish immigrants.

However, another 250,000 have already left the country over the past two decades due to the rising threat of violent antisemitism, especially from radicalized Muslims transplanted from North Africa to crowded neighborhoods in Paris, Marseilles, and other large French cities. Some Jewish émigrés have opted to join the growing enclaves of French Jews in Canada, Australia, or the United States, but a rising number have chosen Israel as a safer location for them, including from the coronavirus threat.

Aliyah from France to Israel has remained relatively strong and stable over recent years, despite the coronavirus travel bans. It is now expected to pick up even more as French Jews

see Israel as having better job opportunities and a better record on handling the COVID-19 menace. French Aliyah is up by 137 percent in the first half of 2021, compared to the same period last year, while the number of Aliyah applications has quadrupled over the past year. The Christian Embassy also just sponsored Aliyah flights for about 30 American Jews moving to Israel. This will bring the total number of Jews brought by the ICEJ on Aliyah flights to Israel this year to over 1,220 from 17 countries, plus another 700 newcomers assisted via pre-Aliyah programs.

Meanwhile, the ICEJ is preparing to fund Aliyah flights for several hundred more Jews in the coming months, including large groups expected from Ethiopia and India and more Jews from France, the United States, and elsewhere. But we need your help! So please continue to support the Aliyah efforts of the ICEJ. 🇮🇱



Israel's Minister of Aliyah Pnina Tamano-Shata speaking in Paris.

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www.icejusa.org/aliyah



ICEJ FUNDS RESCUE FLIGHT FOR SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS

BY ANASTASIYA GOODING

A group of 87 South African Jewish immigrants arrived safely in Israel in July on an emergency Aliyah flight funded by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem at the urgent request of The Jewish Agency. They had accelerated their immigration process to Israel due to the struggling economy, high unemployment, coronavirus lockdowns, and recent political unrest in South Africa, which saw widespread looting in July following the arrest of a popular former leader on corruption charges.



Looting in South Africa

The group of *Olim* (newcomers) was the largest Aliyah flight group from South Africa in over 25 years.

National Director for ICEJ-South Africa Vivienne Myburgh had the chance to say farewell to some of her Jewish countrymen before they departed the airport in Cape Town. She spoke with 91-year-old Dr. Hymie Ehrlich just before he boarded the flight to join his son and family, who made Aliyah 33 years ago, and his daughter, who arrived in Israel four months ago. Ehrlich shared that he has visited Israel about 40 times throughout his life and that “it has always been a dream” to go and live there. He was born in the Cape area in 1930 and practiced as a doctor until 2020, when at almost 90 years of age, he was “instructed” to retire due to the risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Danelle and Paul Datnow and their two sons, Benjamin and Jacob, were also on the flight. They fell in love with Israel after vacationing there in 2017. After talking about making Aliyah for three years, they started the process a few months ago during the lockdown period. They plan to live in Ra'anana, a beautiful suburb north of Tel Aviv, which is popular with South African Jews and where a quarter of the population is made up of immigrant families.

They were part of a group of 10 immigrants from Cape Town who met up with another 77 coming from Johannesburg, who all rendezvoused in Addis Ababa for the final overnight leg to Ben-Gurion Airport.

Israel offers many programs for new immigrants, such as Hebrew language courses and help with the administrative side of settling into a new life in a new land.

The Christian Embassy was extremely blessed to respond on such short notice with the finances to make this urgent flight possible for all 87 of these Jewish immigrants making the journey home to Israel from South Africa. In the coming months, we expect many more Jewish immigrants to come from South Africa, as well as Ethiopia, India, Russia, Ukraine, France, and even America, among many other lands. Most certainly, the ICEJ will be there to assist them as you enable us by supporting our many Aliyah efforts.

The call of God for the Jews to come home combined with the current challenges in many countries is causing many Jewish people around the globe to realize the time has come to return to their ancient homeland.

Therefore say, “Thus says the Lord God: ‘I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.’” (Ezekiel 11:17)

Again, planning is already underway for many more Jewish families to make Aliyah to Israel this year—including large groups from the Bnei Menashe community in India and Beta Israel tribes in Ethiopia. Please help us to bring them home to Zion. 🌍



The largest group in 25 years from South Africa making Aliyah

DONATE TODAY AT: www.icejusa.org/aliyah



ICEJ SUPPORTING FUN AND FRUITFUL ALIYAH SUMMER CAMPS

BY ANASTASIYA GOODING



An ICEJ sponsored summer camp

In the Jewish world, summer camps are a big thing—especially the opportunity to get outdoors and meet other Jewish children, make new friends, and build fun memories together.

This summer, ICEJ sponsored special summertime camps for Jewish youths in Latvia, Belarus, Russia, and other former Soviet republics. These special Aliyah camps prepare the children to immigrate to Israel and are an important step in their journey home to the promised land. For this reason the Jewish Agency partners with the Christian Embassy, among other organizations, to host them each summer.

So far this year, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has assisted with six Aliyah summer camps that have served 324 participants:

| COUNTRY | PARTICIPANTS |
|---------------|--------------|
| Baltic States | 100 |
| Belarus | 102 |
| Russia | 122 |
| Total | 324 |

One exciting development is that the JAFI summer camps have not stopped even with the coronavirus threat. Of course, there are health precautions, but hundreds of Jewish children have had the chance to enjoy the fresh air and sunshine in these beautiful resorts this summer, thanks to our Christian supporters worldwide.

The JAFI summer camps have proved to be the most effective way of introducing Jewish children to Israel and telling them about the youth Aliyah programs available to them, such as the Na'ale and Sela programs, which the Christian Embassy has been supporting for more than 15 years. These youth Aliyah programs have been a huge success over the years in bringing Jewish children to Israel ahead of their parents and then helping their parents acclimate once they arrive. Thus, it has been a great blessing for the ICEJ to support these unique and highly successful pre-Aliyah summer camps.

One camp held in Belarus was the Super Summer 5781 Festival, which included a visit to an estate that once belonged to an influential Jewish family. At the beginning of the festival, participants learned about a diary that once belonged to David, one of the younger members of this family. Every day, the campers scrolled through the diary of David, one page per day, discovering new aspects of the life of this Jewish family—such as the *chuppah* (wedding canopy), *bar mitzvah*, Shabbat meals, and many other life events and experiences. As the children immersed themselves in the history of this Jewish family to get better acquainted with Jewish culture and traditions, they were encouraged to form their own approaches toward them. The entire time, a unique atmosphere reigned in the camp.

Currently, life in Belarus is difficult, and parents want their children to have a better life in Israel. Soon many of the children who participated in these summer camps will make Aliyah with their parents or on their own as

part of a “Youth Aliyah” program designed to help young *Olim* and students take their first steps toward a new life in Israel.

Just last month, the ICEJ helped with another very special Aliyah summer camp called the “Mezuzah Fest,” held at a resort on a beautiful lake in Northern Russia away from the hustle-and-bustle of the city. Jewish children gathered from all over Northwest Russia for a camp that also involved their parents.

The ICEJ arranged transportation and Israeli-dance classes—including the amazing and popular “Jerusalema Dance Challenge,” a concert of Jewish music and a virtual tour of Jewish St. Petersburg. This was all provided in collaboration with the main Jewish community in St. Petersburg as part of an innovative program to encourage Aliyah and help the children build their Jewish identity.

One of the most impressive results from the summer camps is that the children are exposed to Youth Aliyah programs, such as the Na'ale program, which enables students to take a year of preparation and testing in Jewish studies while they finish their last years of high school in Israel. Most children who participate are around 15 to 17 years old, and 96% of them decide to make Aliyah, with 60% of their parents joining them within a year or two.

With these success rates, we urge you to please consider supporting the ICEJ's Aliyah efforts as we continue to reach out to the younger generation of Jewish people to help them take their first steps in the journey back to their ancestral homeland in Israel. 🇮🇱



ICEJ HOMECARE DELIVERS A SWEET SURPRISE!

BY LAURINA DRIESSE

The gift bags were set out and ribbons perfectly measured for tying around 120 beautiful holiday presents in anticipation of *Rosh Hashanah* in early September. Each gift bag contained a magnetic fridge notepad, a lovely handmade mug, specialty teas grown around Israel, and a jar of honey, thoughtfully wrapped together in a new dishtowel and finished with a ribbon and a little pomegranate symbolizing this special holiday season. The gifts also came with a unique card designed by ICEJ Homecare nurse Corrie van Maanen with a Scripture verse from Isaiah 12:2.

Corrie soon started making her way across Israel to visit single mothers, the disabled, Holocaust Survivors, and others she cares for. The Jewish holiday of *Rosh Hashanah* is a highlight of the year for those under her care. “As they receive this gift of love, they know that they are remembered during this holiday time,”

explained Corrie. “Many come from the former Soviet Union, where they were not allowed to celebrate the Jewish holidays.”

“This is a rich and special season, and the gift card will be treasured,” Corrie added, recalling how one lady she visits wished for a special box to store all her ICEJ Homecare cards. For her next birthday, Corrie gave her a beautiful storage box and now, whenever she feels lonely, she takes it out and reflects on all the words of encouragement she has received from Corrie over the years.

The pomegranate symbolizes righteousness, knowledge, and wisdom, while the honey symbolizes a wish for a sweet new year. “Over this *Rosh Hashanah* season, this is certainly what we want to bless them with,” said Corrie. 🌍



Corrie van Maanen with a couple she cares for.

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to elderly and disabled
Jewish immigrants in need.

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Israeli social workers hosted by the ICEJ for a much needed mini-vacation in Jerusalem

A TIME TO REFRESH AND REFUEL IN JERUSALEM!

BY LAURINA DRIESSE

When ICEJ AID assistant Jannie Tolhoek entered a Jerusalem hotel lobby on a recent summer day, she was greeted by many smiling faces. These beautiful faces belonged to the dedicated and hard-working social workers from the Sderot region in southern Israel.

When the Christian Embassy learned about the intense burden these social workers were carrying during and after the Gaza rocket war in May this year, we immediately put plans into motion to ensure they could enjoy a brief respite to recharge in the always fascinating city of Jerusalem. The ICEJ treated the social workers to several nights in the stylish new Orient Hotel, which boasts a lovely rooftop veranda overlooking the Old City.

Yigal Levi, deputy director of social welfare in Sderot, explained that while they were under constant missile attack from Gaza, each one of these social workers left their own families day and night to go house-to-house checking on other families in their community. With under 30 seconds to seek shelter when the red-alert siren sounds, many families in this region spent most of their days and nights in a shelter while the terrifying sounds of explosions surrounded them.

“These social workers assisted a family where a child was killed while the traumatized family hunkered in their shelter. Their home took a hit from a rocket and shrapnel killed the child,” said Yigal.

Israeli social worker Naomi Zolberg has lived

with her family in Sderot for 20 years and finds it very difficult to leave her three children at night to go out to help others. “They are also scared. It’s not easy,” says Naomi.

During the recent Gaza war, her family was separated when she sent her husband and three children to stay with relatives outside the Sderot area while she remained behind to focus on her work and care for other families. “The rockets were relentless, and in the middle of helping people, we have to go with them into the shelter and see them through this time of panic—people are screaming, while others just freeze from the trauma,” says Naomi. Her field of social work focuses on the whole family.

Mayan Givoni, also a social worker, currently cares for 45 at-risk teenagers participating in both formal therapy and non-formal groups. Playing musical instruments in therapy and counseling sessions is a tool often used to aid in the healing process for these teenagers.

“As social workers, we give so much, and we don’t take time for ourselves. We know people are depending on us, calling us, and we need to be there. This break is what we need to be filled up again so that we can continue to work,” said Mayan.

Jannie commended the social workers for the amazing work they do, saying: “Thank you for standing in the gap and helping the families to cope, as this is a huge burden that you carry on your shoulders. The ICEJ is so happy to bring you to the capital city of Jerusalem, to allow you to recharge and enjoy all the wonderful sights.”

“It was a very hard 11 days, but we will survive and not allow our enemies to win,” responded Yigal. “We thank you and your donors all over the world for giving our social workers the opportunity to come to a hotel to refresh.”

The excitement of being in Jerusalem and having some time out was hugely evident, and an applause of gratitude filled the hotel lobby! Among the many planned activities, the group thoroughly enjoyed a tasting tour of the Mahane Yehuda food market (the “shuk”) and a visit to a chocolate-making factory, while the evenings were fun-filled with singing and music.



Thank you for supporting the work of the ICEJ and helping us to bless those who show so much care and dedication to others, sacrificing their own needs and that of their families. 🌍

PLEASE CONTINUE TO GIVE AT:
www.icejusa.org/aid

STRENGTHENING
FAMILIESEDUCATION &
ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENTCHILDREN &
YOUTHS AT RISKCOEXISTENCE
IN ISRAEL

GIVING HOPE TO ISRAELI FAMILIES IN ASHDOD AND JERUSALEM

BY ANASTASIYA GOODING

Through our “Giving a Future and a Hope” programs, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem offers practical assistance and a brighter tomorrow to disadvantaged Israeli families through social projects. In recent weeks, this included helping to feed hundreds of Israeli households in the Ashdod and Jerusalem areas who have been severely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Over recent years, the ICEJ has helped sponsor a food assistance project through Beit Hallel, a help center in Ashdod that assists new immigrants, Holocaust Survivors, single mothers, and other disadvantaged citizens of Israel. Since the coronavirus lockdowns began last year, this assistance has become more necessary than ever. Last week, 10 of our Jerusalem staff also paid a visit to Ashdod in southern Israel to help fill food packages for 300 area households in need.

Jacques, one of the organizers, greeted our team with great anticipation. That day they had only a small group of people to prepare food packages for distribution and were therefore grateful for our ICEJ staff who came to fill the gap and complete the packaging.

“This humanitarian work demonstrates the love which Christians have for the poor and needy here in Israel,” Jacques explained. He added that the help center reaches 1,250 Israeli families every month, which is only possible because of friends and supporters like the Christian Embassy.

How wonderful it was to join forces to help those in need! When our team arrived, work was in full swing. It was amazing that our staff could work together with several local volunteers. And how pleasant our surprise when Lydia, another volunteer, shared her story with us.



The ICEJ team pulling together to get the job done.



Staff members from our Jerusalem headquarters helping fill food packages for 300 households in Ashdod.

Lydia made Aliyah two-and-a-half years ago, and it was the ICEJ who helped her make the journey home. She was so excited to meet with the ICEJ team and expressed her gratitude to the Christian Embassy for helping in one of the most important steps in her life.

Throughout the entire day, an extraordinary atmosphere of friendship and support reigned. In conclusion, Oleg, the head of the help center, expressed his gratitude.

“Every person who receives this help knows that they have Christian friends all over the world who love them, pray for them, and who help them from the bottom of their hearts. Thank you! You are a great blessing and help to us,” he said.

As part of our “Giving a Future and a Hope” aid program, the ICEJ recently delivered food packages to 30 struggling Arab families living on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. The community there has been hit hard due to the coronavirus pandemic, which completely stopped tourism to Israel—one of the primary financial sources for the Jerusalem Arab community.

Over recent months, a generous invite allowed the ICEJ team to operate elements of our global prayer ministry from the “Father’s House,” a house of prayer on the Mount of Olives with an amazing view of the Eastern Gate and Temple Mount. Relationships built in our time there helped open a door of opportunity for us to lend a helping hand to our Arab neighbors during this difficult time.

Thank you for your generous giving, which allows us to bless the people of Israel in many practical ways. Our “Giving Hope” programs provide needy Israelis with educational and economic empowerment, lift children from broken homes and youths at risk, promote coexistence among all segments of Israeli society, and assist struggling new immigrants and minority communities.

If you want to be a part of offering practical aid and broader opportunities toward a brighter future to Israelis in need, please donate today. 🌐

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SEPTEMBER 20–27, 2021

FEAST of TABERNACLES

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THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

THE DAYS OF ELIJAH

“

Behold, I will send
you Elijah the prophet
before the coming of
the great and dreadful
day of the Lord.

- Malachi 4:5–6

”

FEAST SPEAKERS (INVITED)



**Dr. Jürgen
Bühler**



**Angus
Buchan**



**Suzette
Hattingh**



**Lou
Engle**



**Israel
Pochtar**



**Philip
Mantofa**



**Peter
Tsukahira**

Malcolm Hedding, Daniel Yahav, George Anadora, Joel Goldberg, Manasa Kolivuso, RT Kendall, Mosy Madugba,
and many more.

WORSHIP LEADERS (INVITED)



**Birgitta
Veksler**



**Vesna
Bühler**



**Eddie
James**



**Sarah
Liberman**



**Shilo
Ben Hod**



**Joshua
Aaron**



**Sakhnini
Brothers**

Elihana Eli, Thais Schucman, Dorothy Bedford, Indonesian Worship Team, Stuttgart Worship Team, and many more.

FEAST TESTIMONIES FROM LAST YEAR'S ONLINE FEAST



On Wednesday, October 7, we joined the online Feast with some people from our Isaiah 62 prayer group. We loved the mixture of worship, special guests, and teachings and the helpful German translation. Through the live streaming we had seats “in the front row” during the Feast and enjoyed the panorama of the city we love so much.

Annette and Ulrich Freischlad, Isaiah 62 Prayer Group in Krefeld (Germany)



Congratulations and many thanks for the festive, spectacular, and informative online Feast! Certainly, I will watch some more seminars. God's love for the people of Israel and the fulfillment of His promises through the worldwide ministry of ICEJ is impressive. Thank you for the many testimonies of the miracles God did in the 40 years of ICEJ history! Israel is a light and a blessing for the nations.

Elisabeth Rust, Freistadt (Austria)



The three of us were keenly watching, sometimes together with our Israel small group. Thank you for the wonderful program! The Messianic worship was refreshing. We enjoyed particularly the song “Dai Li /Enough,” from Shilo Ben Hod. The *Sukkah* in front of the beautiful backdrop of Jerusalem was gorgeous, and we loved the guests—like Rabbi Bowman and Yehuda Glick—the talks, and the biblical input.

Anette, Siegfried, and Angi Walch (Germany)

ASCEND TO JERUSALEM FOR OUR MOST EXCITING ONLINE FEAST!

JOIN THE BIGGEST FEAST EVER AND FEEL LIKE YOU ARE RIGHT HERE WITH US IN JERUSALEM!

The online Feast will be available on our exclusive streaming platform and will include live streaming of all Feast events, plus over 80 seminar teachings and other unique online content viewable on demand.

SEMINAR TRACKS:

Feast Theme of "Days of Elijah"
Feast of Tabernacles & Biblical Holidays
Currents Affairs in Israel & Region
Local Believers in Israel
Isaiah 19 Highway
Next Generation
Global Prayer & Praise Reports
Virtual Tours to Key Bible Sites

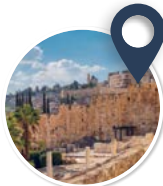
FEAST HIGHLIGHTS:

Israeli and Global Speakers
Israeli and Global Worship Leaders
Roll Call of Nations
Jerusalem March
24/7 Prayer Watch
Interactive Streaming Platform
Live Chats/Share Photos
Plus much more



THE ONLINE FEAST 2021 COMES TO YOU FROM EXCITING NEW LOCATIONS ACROSS ISRAEL!

- Desert Celebration at Qumran/Dead Sea
- Roll Call of the Nations at Southern Steps in Jerusalem
- Jerusalem March
- Special Prayer Service at the Western Wall
- Communion at the Garden Tomb
- Worship Concert at the Sea of Galilee
- Grand Finale on Mount Carmel



THREE OPTIONS FOR THE ONLINE FEAST

1. BASIC PACKAGE US \$50⁰⁰

- Full Feast registration includes 90 days access to VOD content
- Digital certificate of participation

2. ELIJAH PACKAGE US \$99⁹⁹

- Nine months access to VOD content
- Digital certificate of participation
- ICEJ official pin and 2022 Israel calendar shipped to you

3. HOST A FEAST WATCH PARTY

Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with the ICEJ by gathering a group to watch online and receive a FREE registration.*

See page 19 for details.

*Restrictions apply, and registration requires prior approval.



To find out more about registering for our online Global Feast 2021, go to:

www.feast.live

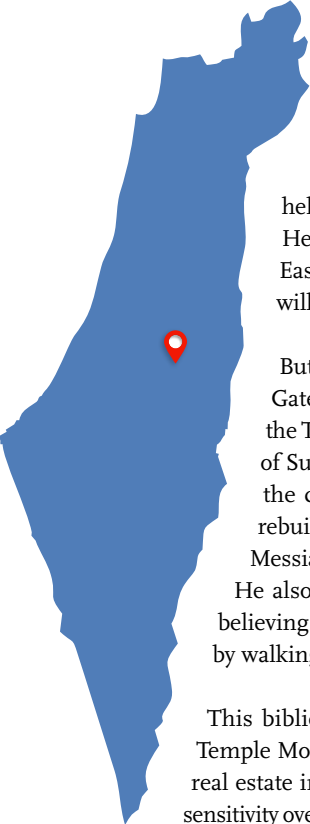


Eastern Gate, Jerusalem

JESUS' FINAL DAYS IN JERUSALEM

Biblical History Comes Alive in Jerusalem

BY DR. SUSAN MICHAEL, ICEJ USA DIRECTOR



One of the most memorable moments for people on tours to Israel is standing on the Mount of Olives and looking across the valley at the Eastern Gate of the Temple Mount. One can't help but imagine the magnificent temple of King Herod standing there or Jesus walking through the Eastern Gate as He most probably did and likely will do again.

But any casual observer will notice that the Eastern Gate has been sealed shut! Almost 500 years ago, the Turks conquered Jerusalem under the leadership of Suleiman the Magnificent, who commanded that the city's ancient walls be rebuilt, and amid this rebuilding project, he decided to put an end to Jewish Messianic hopes and ordered the Eastern Gate sealed.

He also put a Muslim cemetery in front of the Gate, believing that no Jewish holy man would defile himself by walking through a Muslim cemetery.

This biblical, historical, and future significance of the Temple Mount makes it the most hotly contested piece of real estate in the entire world. An example of the extreme sensitivity over ownership of the site is that Jews and Christians are not allowed to pray on the Temple Mount, which is under strict Muslim control. Jews today pray below the Temple Mount facing the remains of the western retaining wall.

Jesus had this same breathtaking view when he wept over Jerusalem during His triumphal entry as he rode a donkey from the Mount of Olives. Despite the crowds shouting "Hosanna!" and hailing Him as King, His heart was in agony for Jerusalem.

He understood the significance of Jerusalem and what awaited Him there. He also knew of the coming destruction of Jerusalem and prophesied that no stone would be left that was not thrown down. Archeological excavations of the southern area around the Temple Mount have exposed stones thrown from the temple walls just as Jesus had predicted. They have also uncovered the southern steps ascending to the Temple Mount—stairs Jesus most likely walked on.

After his triumphal entry to Jerusalem, Jesus cleansed the temple, reasoned with the religious leaders, and later traveled back over the Mount of Olives to Bethany, where He remained for two days until Passover. Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples and predicted His impending death in a large upper room in an affluent part of Jerusalem. Tour groups can visit an upstairs room in the probable vicinity of the real upper room, which is a nice place to visualize the Passover story.

After the meal in the upper room, the biblical account tells us that Jesus traveled back to the Mount of Olives, which was His custom. The Mount of Olives was named as such because a large olive grove covered it, and Gethsemane, the place where Jesus went to pray, meant "olive press." Today's garden of Gethsemane, which houses the Church of all Nations, is full of olive trees that are almost 1,000 years old and may have roots from the time of Jesus.

Jesus prayed in Gethsemane three times under increasing pressure, reminiscent of the incremental weight of an olive press extracting oil from olives. It was also there He was betrayed by Judas, arrested, and taken to the high priest.

The story continues in the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest, which was back in that same affluent neighborhood in Jerusalem. Today, tourists can view in that vicinity archeological remains of a nice home with cisterns dug underneath, indicating the owner was wealthy. It also has a prison cell dug into the bedrock below. Whether this is the place Jesus was held overnight is not known, but the visitor can see how Jesus may have spent that night in a pitch-black cavern.

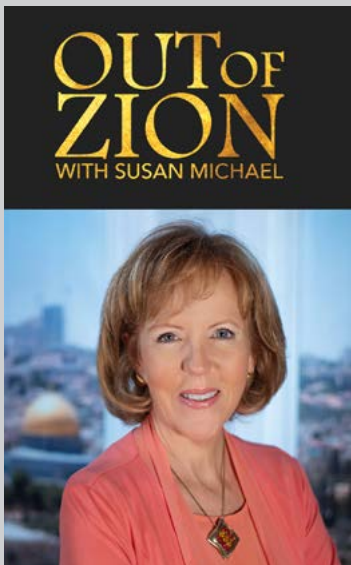
The next morning, Jesus was taken to Pontius Pilate, and we have the story of His conviction, scourging, and His agonizing walk to Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified. The most likely site of Golgotha is under the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a crusader building encompassing several older chapels built atop different

sites like Golgotha and the tomb of Jesus. However, because the original sites are many feet below ground level, and an ornate Orthodox or Catholic altar with a small view of stone below ground is the only thing visible, it is not a popular site for Protestants.

The other possible site for Golgotha, preferred by most Protestant groups, is a lovely garden, conducive to prayer and worship, at the foot of a stone hill physically resembling a skull. In the side of that hill is a hewn tomb like the one Jesus would have been buried in. The door to the tomb carries the good news that “He is risen!”

To relive the final days of Jesus on a visit to Jerusalem makes the story come alive! Most importantly, we find that the tomb is empty. We do not go to Jerusalem to find Jesus, because He is wherever hearts have welcomed Him. But a trip to Jerusalem does help us appreciate His final days and the authenticity of the biblical account.

We hope you will be able to “Come up” to Jerusalem with us at this year’s virtual Feast of Tabernacles! 🌍



GOD'S MERCY IN JUDGMENT

BY DR. SUSAN MICHAEL

Dr. Susan Michael is ICEJ USA Director and host of the Out of Zion podcast, which is available on the Charisma Podcast Network and at OutofZionShow.com

One of the most astounding books in the entire Bible is the book of the prophet Isaiah. During his long ministry, he watched the Northern Kingdom of Israel fall and be taken into exile by the Assyrians. He warned the Southern Kingdom of Judah of coming judgment due to their sins. He also pronounced judgment on numerous other nations.

Isaiah 60 then describes a day when the Lord will shine the light of His glory upon His people and gather them back to their land. The gentiles will even assist in their return and the rebuilding of Zion. The great prophet Isaiah ends his book with the reminder that as sure as the new heaven and new earth will remain, so is God's promise that the people of Israel will always be a nation before Him.

As the world prepares for the very near and coming return of the Lord Jesus and the days Isaiah foresaw in which this old world takes on eternity as a new heaven and new earth, we need to stand in intercession. Once again, Isaiah saw that too!

I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem;
They shall never hold their peace day or night.
You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent,
And give Him no rest till He establishes
And till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth.
(Isaiah 62:6–7)

Isaiah also described a future day of peace and restoration. For example, Isaiah 19 pronounces judgment and devastation on Egypt but ends with a vision of a future highway that will link Egypt to Israel and Assyria in friendship and peace. The astounding prophecy calls Assyria “my handiwork,” Israel “my inheritance,” and Egypt “my people.” Today, prayer groups throughout that region are praying for the fulfillment of this glorious vision and a highway of peace—the Isaiah 19 highway.

Isaiah's oracles in chapters 1–39 tend to focus on judgment interspersed with brief respites of hope. But chapters 40–66 focus on the glorious future restoration that the Lord allows Isaiah to see. The very first verse of chapter 40 announces comfort to God's people who have paid for their sins, and they are told to prepare the way for the coming King.

Join me for the *Out of Zion* podcast on “Isaiah's Vision of Restoration” which is available on Charisma Podcast Network and *OutofZionShow.com*. *Walk Thru the Bible* with me each week by downloading our Bible reading plan, and get started reading right away! Invite your friends and family to join us! I can't wait to *Walk Thru the Bible* with you! 🌍



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Gifts



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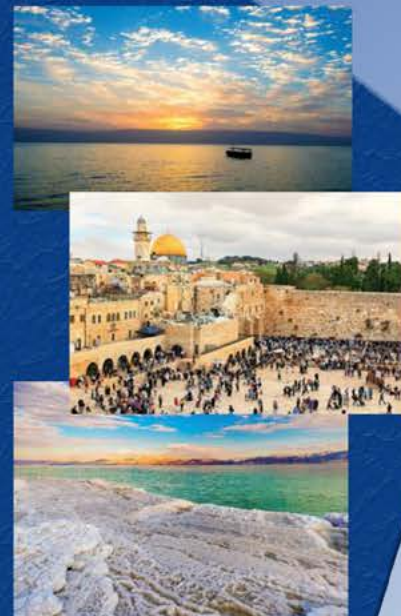
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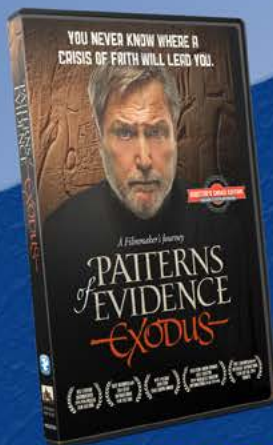


CALENDAR

This calendar has stunning photos of Israel. It includes US and Israel holidays as well as the Priestly Blessing, and the Hear O' Israel (Shema) blessing.



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Dr. Mary Drabik, President, South Florida Bible College, Brazilian Congressman Eduardo Bolsonaro, Susan Michael, ICEJ USA Director



BRAZIL WILL MOVE EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM NEXT YEAR

Brazilian pastors, Christian leaders, and faculty from South Florida Bible College (SFBC) gathered recently for *Israel: A Dynamic Relationship* to hear about Brazil's support for Israel and meet one of Brazil's most popular politicians. The symposium, held on the SFBC campus in Deerfield Beach, Florida, featured presentations by ICEJ USA Director Dr. Susan Michael and Brazilian Congressman Eduardo Bolsonaro.

Dr. Mary Drabik, president of SFBC, welcomed attendees, emphasizing that SFBC would be a pro-Israel campus under her leadership and was so happy to be hosting the afternoon's event.

Dr. Michael opened with a presentation about the various obstacles Israel currently faces, such as the threat of a nuclear Iran and the global Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, fueling antisemitism worldwide. She then explained the multitude of reasons for supporting Israel.

One of her examples especially dear to people's hearts at the South Florida gathering involved the Champlain Towers condo tragedy. When the building collapsed in Surf-

side, Florida, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) deployed a rapid response elite squad to help with search and rescue. This team was credited with recovering 81 of the 97 bodies of victims due to their superior methods of mapping out potential locations. The Israeli squad won the hearts of their fellow American first-responders who lined the road and applauded as the Israel team left for home upon completion of the recoveries. This is just one example of the good hearts of the people of Israel committed to the Jewish concept of *Tikkun Olam*—"repairing the world."

The highly popular Brazilian Congressman Eduardo Bolsonaro spoke about his country's history with Israel and the deep support of the Brazilian people for the Jewish State. He recounted stories from trips to Israel along with his father, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.

The highly personable leader was adamant that his father would honor his campaign promise to move the Brazilian Embassy to Jerusalem before the end of his term in late 2022, with developments closely monitored by the Evangelical Christians in Brazil. This news brought a great round of applause and

appreciation for the leadership of the Bolsonaro family in Brazil.

Sponsors of the symposium were South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary, International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, World Children's Fund, Instituto Conservador Liberal, and the Latin American Conservative Alliance. 🌐



Susan Michael speaking at the Israel: A Dynamic Relationship symposium.

SEPT 20-27
2021

THE DAYS OF ELIJAH



What is a Feast Watch Party?

A gathering of at least 10 people from your church, small group, or simply friends and family who get together for one night during the Feast of Tabernacles to watch online and experience together all that the Lord has in store during this appointed time. We will leave the outline for the night up to you and what will best work for your group but in addition to watching the 1-2 hour Feast of Tabernacles event, you can add dinner, snacks, live worship, or even your own live teaching on the Feast.



How do you sign up?

To get your special Feast Watch Party access code email John Vedder at john.vedder@icejusa.org or call our office at 615-895-9830.



How do you watch?

Online through the ICEJ's Feast platform. You will want to log in before the party and learn how to find the program you will want to watch at your party.



When do you watch?

Due to the time difference from Israel to the United States, the Feast will be made available on demand each day for your viewing. This means that you and your group can decide what day and what event will best suit your group. Please check online for the schedule, and if you have any questions or would like a recommendation of which event to watch please reach out to us.



What is required to host as a Watch party?

- 10 or more in your group
- Report back to us the total amount in your group after watching
- Take up a special Feast offering that can be mailed to our US administrative office

If you meet the requirements and are approved, the ICEJ will give you a **FREE REGISTRATION** coupon code to use as a way to say thank you for hosting a watch party.



HOST A FEAST WATCH PARTY

Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with the ICEJ by gathering a group to watch online

"Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths." (Zechariah 14:16)

We would like to extend a special invitation to you and your congregation or small group to attend the Feast of Tabernacles online, September 20-27, 2021, for an incredible experience like no other. With live Israeli worship and inspired speakers from around the world, you can celebrate and experience the Feast as if you were there in Jerusalem.

Contact us today! Email:

John Vedder – USA Church Relations Coordinator
john.vedder@icejusa.org or call (615) 895-9830

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20-27
SEPTEMBER
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HOST A FEAST WATCH PARTY

Celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with the ICEJ by gathering a group to watch online and receive a **FREE** registration.*

See page 19 for details

*Restrictions apply and registration requires prior approval

LEARN MORE AT: WWW.FEAST.LIVE