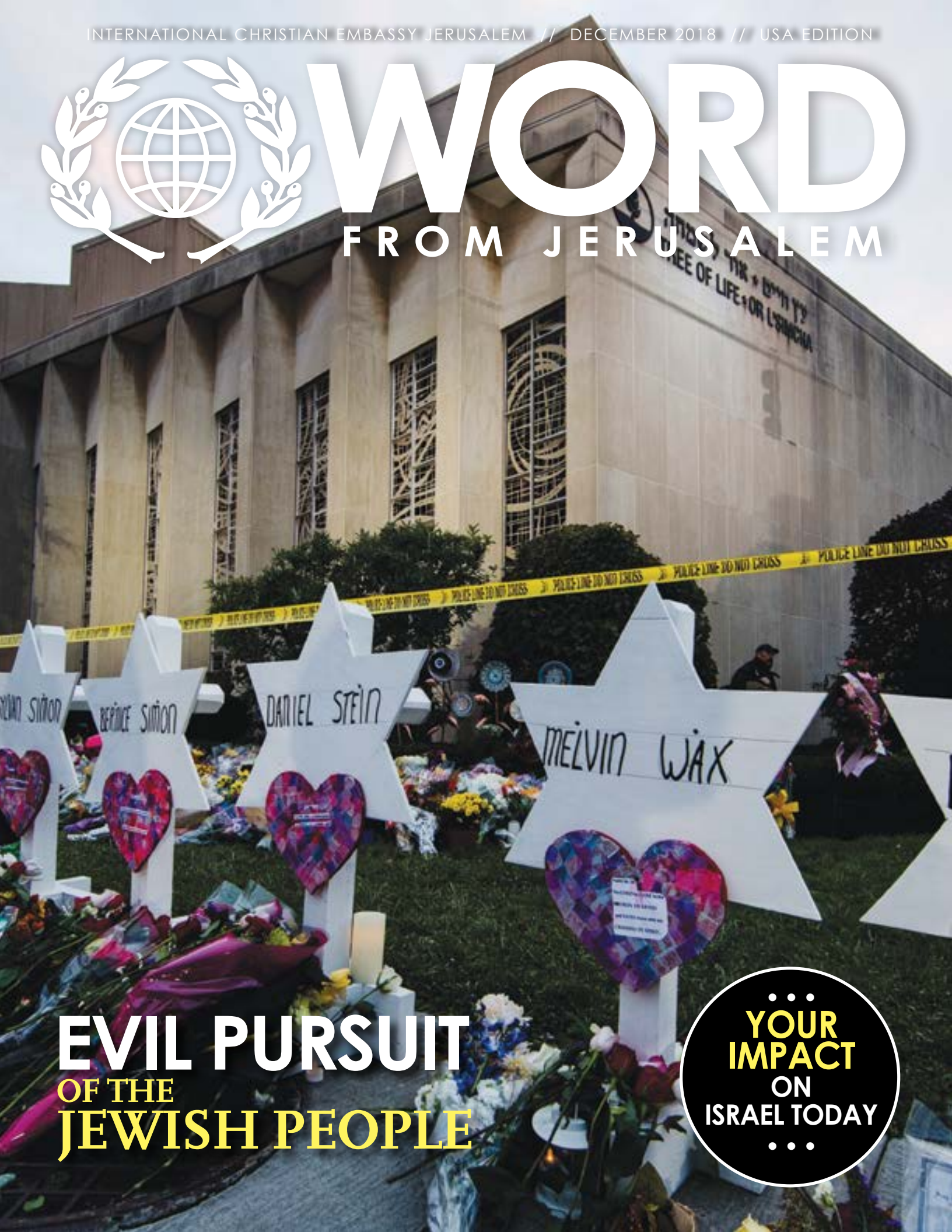




# WORD

FROM JERUSALEM



**EVIL PURSUIT**  
OF THE  
**JEWISH PEOPLE**

•••  
**YOUR  
IMPACT**  
ON  
ISRAEL TODAY  
•••



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Friends,

This past year the ICEJ impacted many people throughout Israel. From our headquarters in Jerusalem we touched the entire nation. The map inside shows just a glimpse of our many activities across Israel.

As we enter the Christmas season, we remember the greatest miracle that took place right here in Israel: God came to earth to become like us. From birth, he was human like you and me, yet at the same time he was the Son of God. Isaiah the prophet foresaw this child, declaring his name will be Immanuel—"God with us."

The Apostle John describes that time when he was privileged to live with Jesus: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life ..." (1 John 1:1).

When the disciples were with Jesus, they did not need a Bible commentary anymore; they watched as Jesus healed the sick, dealt with outcasts and priests alike, approached tax collectors and saints, and spoke with both women and rabbis. As they observed the way he walked, talked, and lived his life, the disciples found themselves in a constant wave of revelation regarding the character of God as the eternal Word became flesh (John 1:14).

But it is even more fascinating because, on a smaller scale, this revelation still happens today. Every person who is regenerated and filled with God's spirit carries "Immanuel" with him. "Christ in us the hope of glory" means as people meet us, they can encounter God. Just as Jesus had a powerful impact on His world, the Holy Spirit's work in us also enables the Word to become flesh and touch the people around us, wherever we are.

I pray that during this Christmas season your life will become an encounter with God for people around you. As you seek to also have this impact in Israel, please prayerfully consider a generous end-of-year gift to the International Christian Embassy and enable us to show God's practical love to His people.

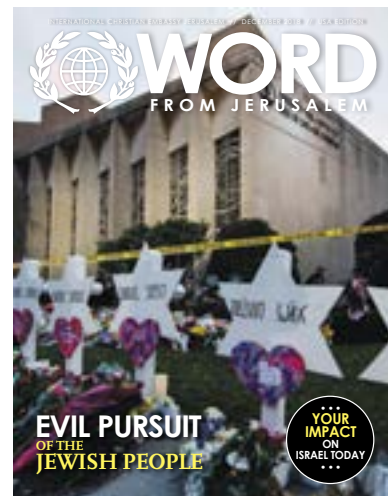
I wish you a blessed Christmas season from Jerusalem.

Blessings to you from Zion,

Dr Jürgen Bühler  
ICEJ President

COVER PHOTO:  
Memorials at the Tree of Life Synagogue,  
Pittsburgh, PA

For Magazine Archives  
visit [www.icejusa.org/wfj](http://www.icejusa.org/wfj)



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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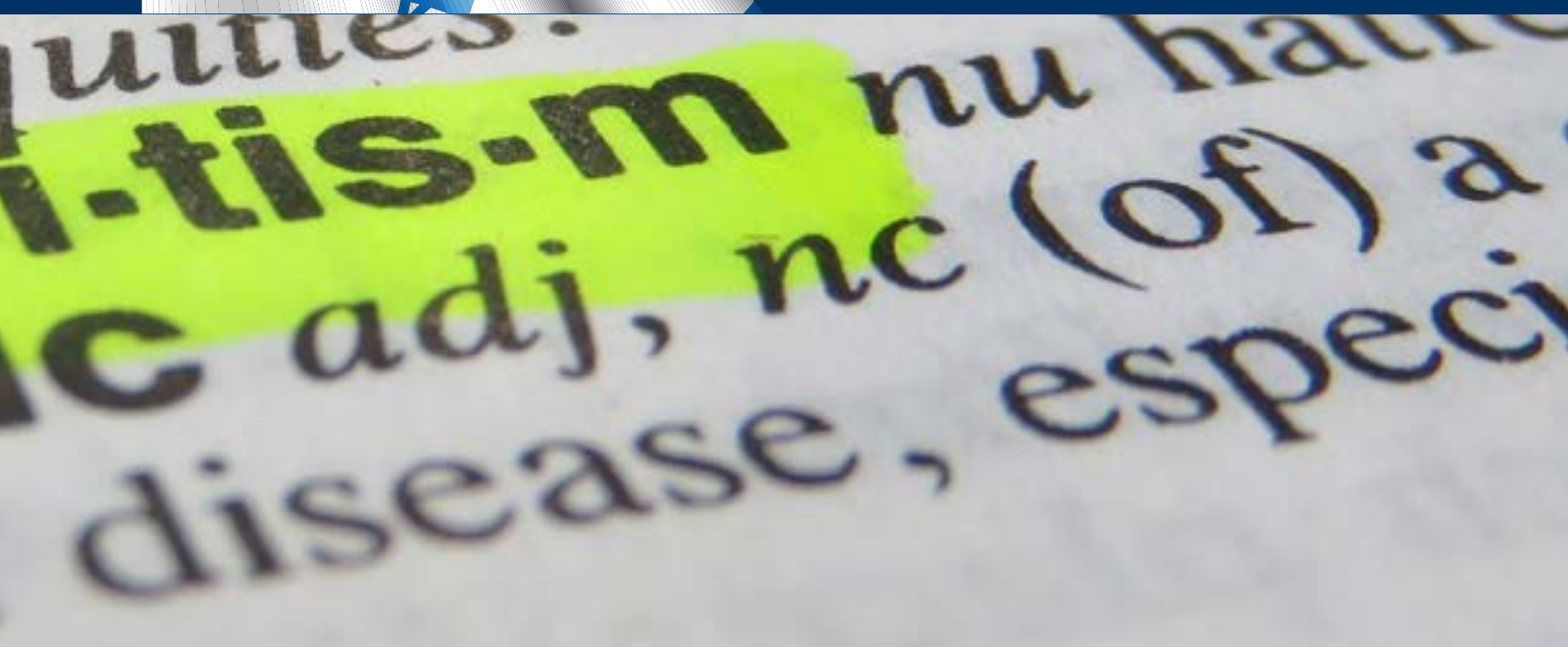
# THE EVIL PURSUIT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE



BY SUSAN MICHAEL, ICEJ USA DIRECTOR

**T**he story of the Jewish people has no parallel in the history of mankind. It is a story of a small people, no more than 17 million at any time in history, with a biblical calling to represent a holy God in the midst of an evil and idolatrous world. They were required to reflect the holiness of their God by living a righteous lifestyle in observance of hundreds of moral and ritual laws. These practices made them visibly and spiritually different from those around them. It also made them an easy target.

The Jewish people were chosen to bless the world with God's redemptive plan—and they would suffer greatly for it. The powers of evil would forever fight against God's plan and would attempt to stop it by destroying the people called to bring it about. The God of Israel understood the difficult place this put His people in, and therefore guaranteed their survival. But the Jews would indeed suffer, and part of their unique story is the ongoing saga of an evil pursuit that defies all logic.



### What Is Anti-Semitism?

The hatred of the Jewish people—anti-Semitism—is as unique in the human experience as the people it hates. It has been around almost as long as the Jewish people have existed. During ancient times when kingdoms and empires ruled the day, conformity and obedience was a requirement that often involved worship of the emperor or of his deities. The Jews were commanded by their God not to worship any other, so they were doomed to conflict.

Within this context, however, there were instances where the conflict grew into an animosity that could only be described as anti-Semitic. One such story is found in the book of Esther, where it is not the Persian king that requires obedience, but his close confidant, Haman, who was enraged by the fact that Mordecai the Jew would not bow down to him. His personal slight grew into a murderous hatred of all Jews and he hatched a plan to annihilate them.

Eventually, ancient empires gave way to the Christian era when so-called Christian kings, who were also heads of the state church, persecuted the Jews because of the church's teachings against Judaism. Jews were accused of being "God killers" due to Jesus' crucifixion and were considered enemies of the church. They were at times treated as outcasts, rounded up in ghettos, and even expelled from countries.

Along came the Enlightenment, and science trumped religion as the primary source of authority

in the world. Scientific studies advanced racial theories that then became the backbone of Nazi ideology. Adolf Hitler believed the Jews to be an inferior race that needed to be eradicated.

These older forms of anti-Semitism are socially unacceptable in the twenty-first century. Religious bigotry and racism are frowned upon and are antithetical to the prevailing ideologies of globalism and secularism. However, so is Israel, a Jewish nation-state. Therefore, the modern form of anti-Semitism that has found a stronghold and large-scale acceptance today is political. It is against the Jewish state and is called anti-Zionism. Religious anti-Semitism *does* exist today, and it is Islamic; however, the West tends to view it through the political lens of the Arab-Israeli conflict and overlooks its inherently theological underpinnings.

This evil pursuit of the Jewish people has continued for millennia, which is why historian Robert Wistrich calls anti-Semitism "the longest hatred." Every time it seems to be dying out it reinvents itself with a different look and a different name—like a mutating virus—but the goal is always the same: rid the world of the Jewish people.

British journalist Melanie Phillips said this about it: "It is a tremendous mistake to assume that anti-Semitism arises from any political activity or ideology. It is a pathology based on the wish to exterminate the Jewish people—a moral and spiritual sickness unique in human history, and which morphs and mutates across religious, secular, and political systems."



### Anti-Semitism Today

Anti-Semitism today has two faces: one is Islamic and the other political. Both demonize the Jewish people by perpetrating conspiracy theories and false accusations against Israel. The problem is that demonizing Israel is in fact a demonization of the Israeli people who become representative of all Jews. This is why a Jewish person walking the streets in France can be attacked because of Israeli military action against Hamas in Gaza.

To quote Melanie Phillips again, “Blaming Israel is a way of blaming the Jews for anti-Semitism. People do this not just out of their own bigotry, but because they cannot acknowledge the unique and uniquely evil nature of the phenomenon.”

Proof that anti-Semitism is alive and well is found in a 2013 study reporting the sad statistic that only 70 years after the Holocaust, one-third of Europe’s Jews were considering emigrating because of anti-Semitism. This year, forty percent of British Jews are considering leaving the UK because of a rise in anti-Semitism there.

A 2014 study found that 25 percent of the world’s population—1.1 billion people—holds anti-Semitic views, even though 70 percent of them had never met a Jew. Thirty-five percent of them had never heard of the Holocaust, and of those who had, one-third of them thought it was either a myth or greatly exaggerated. The highest percentage of populations holding anti-Semitic views were found in the Middle East.

The anti-Semitism prevalent in the Middle East is spreading to forums in other parts of the world including American college campuses where Palestinian groups are mobilizing students to their cause using anti-Israel vitriol. Anti-Semitic incidences rose 57 percent in the United States last year, mainly in high schools and on college campuses where these groups are active.

Another frontier in the spread of anti-Semitism is the internet where hate-filled people spew a relentless stream of paranoia and lies inciting some to acts of violence. That is exactly what drove Robert Bowers to take a semi-automatic weapon into a synagogue in Pittsburgh to kill as many Jews as possible. The deadliest attack on the Jewish community in American history should serve as a wake-up call for all of us and cause us to ask, “What can I do?”

### What Can Be Done

There is much that can and should be done. While this article cannot provide an exhaustive list, let’s concentrate on the most obvious things that most of us can do at the community level.

Reach out to your local Jewish community, or one that has suffered an anti-Semitic attack, and let them know how sorry you are and that you are praying for them. This can be done in a card to the Rabbi, or the Jewish Federation director in that city. Showing up at a local memorial service speaks louder than words. Do not come with an agenda or message other than “we are sorry.”

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel once wrote: “What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor but the silence of the bystander.” We are often silent because we do not know what to say, but your silence is deafening at times of attack. Please voice your condolence.

If you come across ugly comments on the internet, call them out for being anti-Semitic so others who come across this will be alerted. The first step in opposing this evil is identifying it for what it is. Educate yourself how to combat the lies permeating the internet so that it becomes a place of pushing back against the hatred. Visit the [ICEJUSA.org](http://ICEJUSA.org) and [IsraelAnswers.com](http://IsraelAnswers.com) websites for teachings and answers to frequently asked questions.

Help your church to be informed and educated about the history and the current expressions of anti-Semitism. The ICEJ provides informative seminars that do this from a biblical perspective, not only enlightening but also inspiring churches to take a stance on behalf of the Jewish people.

If you are an alumnus of a college or university, contact the school president and let them know how concerned you are about this issue and ask what they are doing about it. Suggest they include courses against movements of hate including anti-Semitism, monitor anti-Israel groups calling for death to Israel and Zionists, and take seriously any complaints of anti-Semitism by their Jewish students.

These are simple steps that most of us can take. While the global epidemic of anti-Semitism may seem overwhelming, it is still small enough in the United States to be addressed. If we focus on the local level and within our own sphere of influence, we can each make a small difference—and that can add up to a whole lot of good. 🌍



## STANDING UP AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE


BY MOJMIR KALLUS

ICEJ VICE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Every summer for the past five years, an improbable group of about 70 people of all ages and walks of life has set out to march in the footsteps of Vrba and Wetzler, two Slovak Jews who escaped Auschwitz to inform the world about the genocide. The motivation for this six-day trek through the hills and valleys at the Polish-Slovak border is to ponder their heroic act, which is believed to have saved over 200,000 lives, and take the lesson home to share with others.

Unlike other commemorative events, this one is a personal act of courage and determination. It brings together people who feel that it is not enough to say nice words. The time we live in, especially in Europe, compels one to take a public stand against anti-Semitism. If history is not to be repeated, one has to stand actively against evil. This uniting idea forges strong bonds of friendship during the walk, in spite of differences of opinion on many issues.

The Czech and Slovak branches of the ICEJ organize the project, which is finding growing resonance in Israel, the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Hungary. Thanks to the participants' efforts, Yad Vashem decided this year to recognize another Righteous from the Nations. Slovak farmer, Ondrej Canecky, who risked his life to help Vrba and Wetzler by giving them shelter, food, and clothing and bringing them into contact with the Jewish underground, was given this prestigious honor.

During the walk, participants learned about the ministry and mission of the ICEJ, which they hold in high esteem. We hope to get more international participation next year. The dates have already been set and you can find out more details on the project website: [www.vrbawetzler.eu/lang\\_en/](http://www.vrbawetzler.eu/lang_en/). 

## THE ICEJ CONFRONTING ANTI-SEMITISM

The ministry of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has been on the front lines of confronting anti-Semitism for decades. Here are just some of the ways.


**EDUCATION:** Through our network of national directors and representatives across the globe, we raise support for the people of Israel with teaching events and educational programs. We combat anti-Semitic lies by teaching what God's Word says about the Jewish people.

**PARTNERSHIP WITH YAD VASHEM:** We have a historic partnership with Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Center, and with them conduct weeklong seminars to help Christian leaders and educators better understand the roots of the Nazi Holocaust mobilizing them to confront anti-Semitism.

**ISRAELANSWERS.COM:** Designed with a younger, Christian audience in mind, this website provides simple answers to the most common questions asked by students and young leaders exposed to anti-Semitic vitriol of Palestinian groups and the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

**JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS:** Our network of branches around the world have helped to pioneer a new level in Jewish-Christian relations by hosting rallies, events, and advocacy campaigns aimed at uniting the local Jewish and Christian leaders, as well as governmental and Israeli representatives. This deepening relationship serves as an encouragement to the Jewish people.

**BLESSING THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL:** All of the ICEJ's outreach programs send a message of love and support to the people of Israel. When Christians care for Holocaust Survivors, provide bomb shelters, or help victims of terror, we are not just providing practical assistance but are letting the Jewish people know that we love them and are standing with them.

As anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world, you can be a blessing and encouragement to the Jewish people. Let them know that they are not alone. The ICEJ is your partner in supporting Israel, teaching truth, and promoting justice for the Jewish people. 

Help ICEJ combat anti-Semitism at [www.icejusa.org/combat-antisemitism](http://www.icejusa.org/combat-antisemitism)



In Jesus's hometown of Nazareth, hospitalized children receive special care

# YOUR IMPACT ON ISRAEL TODAY

We love to share with you how you have been blessing Israel together with thousands of others from the global community of Christ. So many Jews depend on you for blessing, hope, and comfort. As in ancient times, Israel is a composite of twelve "tribes." Many of them are thriving and some are not. All need God and every last one of them benefits from the help you give to Israel. The Christian Embassy answers the call of God to comfort and support His people, and you are our most important partner. We are here together with you in the Land of Israel.

## Keep Up the Good Work

The ICEJ is a powerhouse for Christian projects in the land of Israel; this map is a small sampling of our impact across Israel in 2018. To continue these projects, maintain current activities, and respond to urgent needs as they arise, we need your financial support. Every gift, large or small, impacts the people of Israel in profound ways, and communicates your Christian love to them.

### ICEJ's Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors

Because of you, PTSD Victims can rebuild their lives and find a new equilibrium through sailing therapy in Herzliya

### Many of Tel Aviv's most vulnerable women have a place to seek refuge at the Red Carpet shelter

A children's home and a lone soldier residence in Ashkelon received much-needed new furniture

### Because of you, victims of terror in the Gaza Envelope receive acute aid when they need the most

In Be'er Sheva, new immigrants receive vocational training and mentoring for integration in their new homeland

### From Mt. Hermon in the north to Eilat at the southern tip, ICEJ's Arise Young Adult tours introduce the next generation to Israel, and provide meaningful service projects



MAKE AN IMPACT AND BLESS ISRAEL TODAY: W





**New immigrants from Ethiopia experienced their first authentic Passover Seder in Katzrim**

Druze students in the Golan Heights have access to a new computer room, significantly improving their educational opportunities

**Beleaguered Syrians received medical supplies and treatment deep behind the frontlines of the Syrian civil war**

In Kfar Yehezek, children can play in wonderful, newly installed playgrounds at the local school

Because of you, elderly Jewish immigrants receive warmth and compassionate help from ICEJ's Homecare

**Annual events in Jerusalem, like ICEJ's Envision Pastors & Leaders Conference and the ICEJ Feast of Tabernacles, provide year-round opportunities for Christians to learn about, connect with, and powerfully experience Israel.**

Bethlehem's Christian scout troop can face down discrimination from Muslim-dominated municipal bodies

**Bedouin communities in Um Batin receive life-saving bomb shelters.**



"All of you are doing enormous work to bring more and more Jews, brothers & sisters, from all over the world to the Holy Land fulfilling the dreams of our prophets...We are partners with you, the International Christian Embassy in this incredible endeavor. We helped bring over 140,000 Jews in Aliyah to Israel. Thank you all very much for your incredible effort, friendship and support."

**Isaac Herzog, Jewish Agency Chairman**



"We are very, very grateful...we can't be here without them...I would just like to personally thank...the Christian Embassy for doing what they do, I would wish for them to keep doing it. Keep on going to the places where people most need them...." **Eshkol Mayor Gadi Yarkoni**



YOUR SUPPORT CREATES A  
**POSITIVE IMPACT**  
IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL

Since 1980, the ICEJ has been a constant presence in Israel, representing the global church as your hands and feet to the downtrodden and needy in communities nationwide.

**Thanks to you,** the ICEJ is impacting thousands of lives in Israel. Yet there is so much more to be done as we respond to the needs of the Jewish people

Help us spread ICEJ's  
positive impact in Israel today:  
**[ICEJUSA.ORG/BLESSISRAEL](http://ICEJUSA.ORG/BLESSISRAEL)**



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH YOUR PARTNERSHIP



## ALIYAH IN PROPHETIC NUMBERS

Reached 140,000 mark for Jews returning to Israel through ICEJ's Aliyah efforts

**Michael Freund:** "I'm very grateful to the ICEJ and to all the Christians out there who love Israel, who pray for this Aliyah and who help support this Aliyah...you, the nations, are going to facilitate the return of the people of Israel to the land of Israel and we're seeing that prophecy come to life as well."



## ISRAEL IN CRISIS

Protecting Israel's frontline: 65 shelters and counting. The shelters you helped finance are vital for physical safety and securing community life in Israel's border communities. **You helped double the existing fleet of firefighting trailers by supplying 17 new units to Israeli border communities fighting incendiary kites and explosive balloons.**

**Elan Isaacson:** "I would like to really thank everyone all over the world who is contributing to our trailers, shelters...thank you very much for the support thank you very much ICEJ."



## GIVING A FUTURE AND A HOPE

Your help gets people back on their feet and on the right track. You give a life-changing second chance to break the cycle of poverty. Because of you, Bethlehem's Christian scout troop can face down discrimination from Muslim-dominated municipal bodies.



## PRAYERWAVE

A vision from God was released in the heart of ICEJ President Jürgen Bühler, and was finally birthed as the PrayerWave in May 2018. Through this prayer initiative, God inspired some 500 people, from 61 countries and 21 time zones, to meet Him in prayer as the sun rises. This has created a wave of prayer around the globe for almost 24 hours a day.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ISRAEL TODAY!

Give at [WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG/BLESSISRAEL](http://WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG/BLESSISRAEL)



## Always a Reason to Celebrate at the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors

Shoshana, a resident of the ICEJ's Home for Holocaust Survivors, celebrated her 100th birthday in October. What a wonderful reason to celebrate!

Israeli Minister of Culture Miri Regev joined the party, which was filled with dancing and live music. The dining hall was filled to the brim, with more than 100 Survivors. The room became transformed as the residents sat side-by-side enjoying the celebration. The evening was filled with dancing, gift giving, encouraging words delivered by Miri Regev, and of course Shohanna's birthday cake. Though the party finished around 9:30 p.m., the residents were not ready to leave. They continued chatting and having fun.

Rita Berkovitz, a Survivor who is a daily visitor to the Home, said: "What an amazing evening. You have given me the garden of Eden. I was so alone and here I have found a loving family who is not only loving me but giving me joy and so much more. I have no words."

In times like these, Survivors can forget for a while the memories of the past that haunt many of them day and night, as well as concerns about their health. One of them left the evening with a big smile on her face, sharing with us: "What a wonderful evening. I was so happy I came. It was so worth it. Thank you so much." 🌟



## Visits from the Nations

After the Feast of Tabernacles, the Haifa Home hosted groups from China, Malaysia, Philippines, France, Martinique, Australia, New Zealand, the Royal Rangers from Germany, and many more. The residents are always

touched by these visits and remind the visitors to share the memories of the Holocaust they heard with their friends and family, including their children and grandchildren. 🌐



## Who Won the Crown This Year?

The Miss Holocaust Beauty Pageant took place on October 14, and this year, more than 2,000 Holocaust Survivors and their families enjoyed what has become a yearly tradition in Israel. Wheelchairs and walking sticks were the norm. The average age of most of the audience was at least 75! The evening was filled with music and entertainment, but the highlight was when the beauty contest participants were presented. This year's winner was 93-year-old Auschwitz survivor Tova Ringer.

Although all the ladies looked like beauty queens and were treated in such a way, their external beauty was not the main theme of this contest. Remembering the Holocaust and the hunger for peace was the message that rang through as each participant shared their story with the audience and the media.

This annual event is widely published in the media all over the world and thus keeps the memory of the Holocaust alive—this is the purpose of the contest: never forget and never again! 🌐



## Bomb Shelter for the Haifa Home

Israel has been longing for peace since its establishment but has known mostly wars and conflicts. Even now tensions are high both in the south and in the north of the country, so the decision was made to build an additional safe room, or bomb shelter, adjoining the dining hall.

Residents not only have their meals three times a day here, but most of their activities take place in this hall. In another month, the safe room will be ready and will give the residents a greater sense of security. 🌐

**Please give to:**  
[www.icejusa.org/haifa](http://www.icejusa.org/haifa)

# ICEJ AID



## HAIFA HOME RENOVATION IN PROGRESS

BY YUDIT SETZ  
ICEJ HAIFA HOME DIRECTOR

Over the years, the number of residents at the Haifa Home has grown and thereby the services needed to care for them. There was a great need for a physiotherapy clinic. With great thanks to Herschel Graff, a Christian from the United States, we were able to renovate an existing room into a physiotherapy room, suitable to provide treatment for the residents.

With great excitement the clinic has now opened, and the residents were overjoyed to see the new equipment. During the opening ceremony I shared our love for the people of Israel, which prompted Herschel to make such a generous donation. The residents were deeply touched. The clinic is now constantly filled with residents who receive instructions according to their needs from a Christian Israeli-Arab physiotherapist. The residents are moving their bodies and receiving massages and paraffin baths for their aching joints. It's a great enrichment to the residents' physical and mental well-being, and at the same time, a nice place to meet, laugh, and talk together.

Meanwhile, the Haifa Home expansion is underway. Renovation on the outside of the building is happening and permits are being acquired for the building to begin renovation on the inside. This process will still take a few months before we are ready to begin interior renovation, but we are encouraged to see this expansion in progress. 🌍

To donate to this incredible expansion project, please visit:  
[www.icejusa.org/haifa\\_building](http://www.icejusa.org/haifa_building)



## ADOPTING A SURVIVOR

BY KAYLA ELLINGSWORTH

Have you thought about adopting a Holocaust Survivor? When you adopt a Survivor, you can send letters, see photos, and connect with one of these precious men or women in a unique and special way. Here is what some adopters have said about their experience:

"It was good to see Genia (Holocaust Survivor), who looked beautiful and content in the pictures. I guessed that writing in Hebrew touches her, even though my skill of Hebrew is very simple." — Pirjo from Finland

"I am so glad to hear that my simple postcards mean so much to Galina." — Carol from the United States

As these Holocaust Survivors receive letters and visits from Christians all around the world, you can imagine how loved they feel. Here are some of the Holocaust Survivors' responses to their adopters:

"Brenda is such a wonderful friend to me. She writes very regularly—beautiful cards from France and now from Wales. She never forgets me. She has a very special place in my heart." — Genia, Holocaust Survivor

"I am very grateful for every card I receive. The world has not forgotten us. We here in Israel have friends who write kind words to us." — Naomi, Holocaust Survivor. 🌍

If you would like to adopt a Holocaust Survivor today, please visit our website:  
[www.icejusa.org/adopt](http://www.icejusa.org/adopt)



SHARING HOPE

## WINDS OF CHANGE

BY MAXINE CARLILL

During Hanukkah, a season of light, we would like to share a story of how some light was shed into one family's life. A young girl, one of nine children, lived in an impoverished home and suffered from behavioral problems. This concerned her single mother and psychologist.

A donation from ICEJ Homecare made all the difference! Through it the young girl was able to start violin lessons. A year later she moved on to the saxophone—a wind instrument.

Her mother was frustrated by her daughter's seemingly indecisive behavior and lack of perseverance. However, we suggested that "perhaps this new

instrument of choice will give expression to emotions that cannot be expressed in words, but rather blown into the wind."

After only a few short lessons, a child prodigy was discovered! Not only did she display tremendous talent but she also enjoyed playing the saxophone. A few months later, she began playing with the Israeli Youth Orchestra! Her troublesome behavior disappeared, as she developed into a confident young woman.

Every gift to ICEJ Homecare impacts lives and can enable winds of change within families and communities. Please help us bring light to despairing situations. 🌍

Support the ICEJ's Homecare at: [www.icejusa.org/homecare](http://www.icejusa.org/homecare)



## ONE LIFE IMPACTS MANY

BY NICOLE YODER

"Thank you for watching over my daughter." These were the heartfelt words of a mother of eleven children. The oldest child is Anat. Anat has been raised in boarding schools because her parents were unable to raise her or her siblings. With the ICEJ's help, Anat is able to dream and look to the future with hope. She desires to finish her high school diploma, so she can help provide for her 10 brothers and sisters.

Anat shared her desire for her future: "Perhaps computers. I have good hands for repairing electronic items. I need to have a good salary at work because I have to look after all of my younger brothers and sisters, too." At 21 years old, Anat is not only responsible for helping her younger siblings but also looking after her parents. And yet, she is dreaming of success and future employment. In September, ICEJ gave Anat a scholarship to help her complete her high school diploma.

Thank you for being a part of impacting many young lives—like Anat's—that in turn impacts many other lives around them! 🌍

[www.icejusa.org/aid](http://www.icejusa.org/aid)

# FAITHFULLY SUPPORTING ISRAEL

Be a part of that future generation spoken of in Psalm 102 that is partnering with the Lord in His work to restore Zion, for the set time has come.



**PARTNER  
WITH US  
IN 2019**

## PARTNER LEVELS

### Covenant Partner

Show your love and support for Israel by partnering with the ICEJ. Become a Covenant Partner at a giving level of at least \$30 a month. In appreciation, you will receive the following resources:

- A Partnership Certificate
- The *Word From Jerusalem* magazine
- A year-end gift of appreciation

### Ambassadorial Partner

Partnership in ministry is a gift God gives to strengthen and undergird His work. Become an Ambassadorial Partner with the ICEJ at a giving level of at least \$100 a month. In appreciation, you will receive everything in the Covenant Partnership level plus:

- Exclusive access to ICEJ's quarterly Mid-East ministry update conference call from Jerusalem
- An invitation to attend our ICEJ-USA leadership briefing during our national conference

### Builder of Zion Partner

Isaiah declared the Lord will call Zion's walls "salvation" and her gates "praise" (60:18). As we walk together side by side, the ICEJ would be honored if you would become a Builder of Zion Partner at a giving level of \$2,500 a year or more. In appreciation, you will receive everything in the Ambassadorial Partnership level plus:

- A discount of \$200.00 on a pilgrimage tour to Israel during the Feast of Tabernacles or other qualifying tour
- An additional gift acknowledging you as a Builder of Zion Partner

### Gateway of Zion Partner

Show compassion for Zion and bless the people of Israel. The ICEJ would be honored if you were to become a Gateway of Zion partner at a giving level of \$20,000 a year or more. In appreciation, you will receive everything in the Builder of Zion Partnership level plus:

- The opportunity to meet with ICEJ leadership and/or receive personal briefings on ICEJ projects that are of interest
- Special invites to exclusive events such as pastors' lunches and VIP meetings that are held in your area or community
- An additional gift acknowledging you are a Gateway of Zion Partner

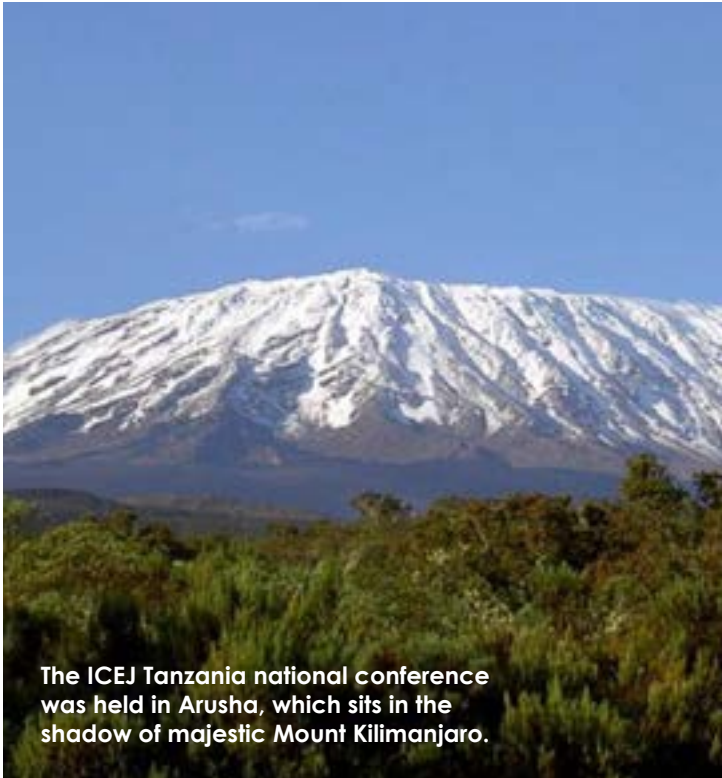
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The ICEJ Tanzania national conference was held in Arusha, which sits in the shadow of majestic Mount Kilimanjaro.



A teaching session on Israel at the ICEJ Tanzania national conference in Arusha draws thousands of people.



Some sixty people respond to an altar call by David Parsons at an outdoor meeting in the town of Morogoro, Tanzania.

# LINKING TANZANIA WITH ISRAEL

BY DAVID PARSONS

ICEJ VICE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR SPOKESMAN

In August, I visited Tanzania to speak at the ICEJ Tanzania National Conference and to churches and pastors around the country. The ministry tour started out in the lovely town of Arusha, which lies near majestic Mount Kilimanjaro and several major safari game parks. The host committee in Arusha organized yet another very successful national conference. Later, we also visited churches in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, and Morogoro.

It was the third year in a row the ICEJ has conducted an extended ministry trip to the East African country to speak about Israel and our ministry. The results were excellent once again, as there is much interest in connecting directly with Israel through the Christian Embassy. We are tapping into a move of God in Tanzania, which has seen the body of Christ grow four times in number over the past two decades—and they already have a burning love for Israel. They were looking for a direct way for the churches to bless Israel, and there seems to be a consensus nationwide that ICEJ provides that link.

Indeed, the ICEJ Tanzania branch has quickly become our

top donor branch in Africa and they are quite proud of it. Many of these donations are coming from individuals who make only a few dollars per day, so we thank God for their faith and sacrifice. Meanwhile, we also want to recognize one major source of financial support for our ministry in Tanzania—Safina Radio, the nationwide radio network led by Dr. Daniel and Mrs. Helen Lema and all their faithful listeners.

ICEJ Tanzania was launched three years ago by our national director, Stanton Newton. With the help of our national chairman, Bishop David Mwasota, and others, it has quickly expanded throughout the country, with representatives now appointed in every region of Tanzania. Plans are already underway for next year's ICEJ Tanzania national conference, which will be held in Songwe.

In the meantime, there are similar opportunities awaiting the ICEJ in neighboring East African countries, such as Kenya and Uganda. My colleague Mojmir Kallus is now arranging a regional planning meeting to tap further into the growing groundswell of Christian support for Israel in East Africa. 🌍



# YOUR ISRAEL ANSWER:

## Why Are Some Christians Celebrating Hanukkah?

By Susan Michael, ICEJ USA Director

Many Christians do not understand the significance of Hanukkah, since it is not one of the biblical feasts of Israel. The fact that Jesus celebrated Hanukkah, however, should make us curious enough to investigate the possible importance of the festival to our faith.

To start, had it not been for Hanukkah, there may have not been a Christmas—Hanukkah helped prepare the way for the birth and ministry of Jesus. Hanukkah is also a good opportunity for Christians to express solidarity with the Jewish people by acknowledging and celebrating the holiday with them!

### The Story of Hanukkah

The story of Hanukkah begins during the period in between the Old and New Testaments, when Antiochus IV Epiphanes became the ruler of the Hellenistic Seleucid Empire. While the Hellenization of the region already threatened the survival of the Jewish religion, Antiochus seemed obsessed with ensuring the demise of Judaism and thereby, the future of the Jewish people.

He not only murdered the High Priest, Onias III, but he slaughtered 40,000 inhabitants of Jerusalem. The observance of the Sabbath and feast days were prohibited as were sacrifices and temple services. In the final assault on Judaism, Antiochus ordered an idol to Zeus be erected in the temple and a pig slaughtered on the altar, thereby desecrating it.

A family from the priestly line of Aaron, the Maccabees, led a revolt against this evil ruler and miraculously experienced victory after victory over the mighty Seleucid forces, until at last the temple could be purified and its

services restored. This rededication of the temple to the God of Israel is celebrated during Hanukkah, originally known as the Festival of Dedication. Hanukkah is a Hebrew word derived from the word “to dedicate.”

### Saving the Jews from Extinction

The defeat of the Seleucid forces by this small band of Jewish zealots was nothing short of a miracle. God had once again demonstrated His faithfulness to His people by saving them from this existential threat. The Maccabean revolt was a turning point in history that saved the Jewish people, their religion, and their calling from extinction.

It meant God’s promise to Abraham that the Jewish people would one day be a blessing to “all the families of the earth” could still be fulfilled (Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:8). God’s plan to bring redemption to the fallen world could now continue! Therefore, 150 years later the Christmas story began with the priest, Zacharias, serving in the temple, while a relative, a young Jewish girl named Mary, is chosen to give birth to the Jewish Messiah, the Son of David.

### Imposing Anti-Jewish Ideologies

This story also has an important lesson for us today. Antiochus IV Epiphanes was no different from many other tyrannical leaders in his attempt to impose the ruling culture and ideologies of the empire upon the people. Hellenization of the Jews meant their adoption of elements of paganism and the immorality it fostered in society, as well as the ruling philosophies of humanism, reason, and pursuit of knowledge. Forcing conformity to the

ruling culture and ideologies of their empire is how kings imposed their rule over the people in their domain.

Today, many world leaders are attempting to impose ideologies of secularism, globalism, and moral relativism on all of us. Once these ideologies take hold, the masses can then be easily controlled; they will have no loyalty to a religious creed, national identity, or moral code.

Israel, a Jewish nation-state, is antithetical to all three of these modern ideologies. Therefore, its Jewish national identity is accused of being racist by secularists and globalists. The very nation that gave the world the Ten Commandments, on which Western civilization bases its legal code and definition of morality, is hated by those attempting to impose their ideology of moral relativism—the belief that there is no right or wrong, truth or falsehood, good or evil.

### The Battle Is Ours Too

This is a battle against both Judaism and Christianity, and Christians need to stand up on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people because their Bible, history of faith, and moral code is also ours.

The Hanukkah story should serve as an encouragement to us all that when we stand up against the mighty powers of our day, we do so not in our own strength, but with God’s help. Standing in solidarity with the Jewish people at Hanukkah is a stance in support of the very root of our own faith.

Therefore, I wish all of our Jewish friends—and my fellow Christians—a Happy Hanukkah! 🌟

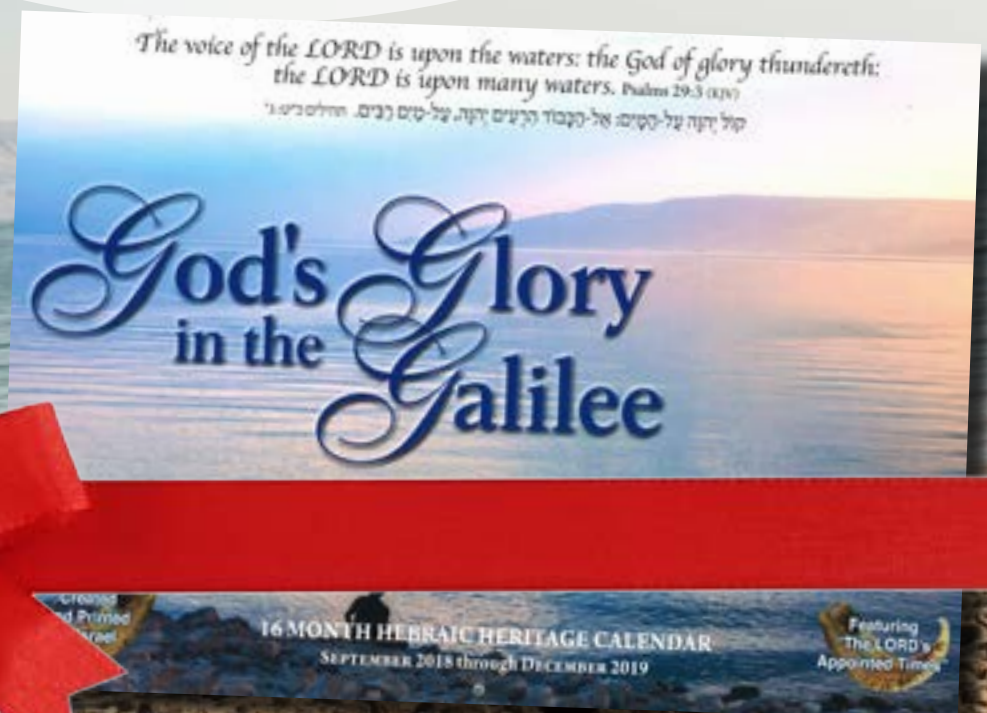
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# Spread the Joy With Acts of Love

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem looks forward to celebrating both Hanukkah and Christmas by sponsoring a series of festive events and gift distributions.

The ICEJ began a wonderful Christmas Concert tradition last year in the heart of Jerusalem, led by Vesna Bühler, which we hope you will tune into on our Facebook page this December. We look forward to sharing the spirit of the holidays with you from Jerusalem.

Christian communities in Nazareth, Bethlehem and the Old City of Jerusalem take special pride in celebrating Christmas. In partnership with evangelical churches in these cities, the ICEJ will sponsor gifts and chocolate treats for hospitalised children, as well as food packages and gifts.

Thanks to our faithful supporters worldwide, ICEJ HomeCare will also be able to give special attention and care to elderly immigrants in Israel. By giving to the ICEJ, you help us spread light in the lives of the people in the Land of Israel.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HANUKKAH



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