



WORD

FROM JERUSALEM



...
PRAYING
FOR THE
FULFILLMENT OF
ISAIAH 19
...

MUCH
HAPPENING
AT THE
**HAIFA
HOME**
FOR
HOLOCAUST
SURVIVORS



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As I write to you, I am returning from an amazing few days in Brazil with over 100,000 fellow Christians who gathered in Manaus to worship Jesus and to also show solidarity and friendship with Israel. Most believers in Brazil are excited about what God is doing with their new government. They say this a new day for their country. After decades of liberal governments and after many years of prayer, they now have a government that wants to return to biblical values and align itself with Israel.

We will report more about these developments later. But what I witnessed in Brazil is the same as what I write about in this magazine about Egypt. Prayer can change a nation! In a recent visit to Egypt, we were amazed to see what God is doing in this key nation. Prayers are being answered beyond our imagination. I hope you will be as inspired as we were when you read about it in this issue of *Word From Jerusalem*.

In addition, you will read about just some of the amazing things that are taking place within the ministry of the ICEJ in Jerusalem and around the world. Much more could be shared. We are blessed that God is opening so many doors for us and the ministry is growing. We thank God for that! Please keep us in your prayers, and please also consider supporting our ministry through your finances. Finally, if you feel our ministry is important for your friend or pastor to know about, please pass along your copy after you have read it, and let them know we will gladly send our *Word From Jerusalem* magazine to them as well.

Thank you again for your support and prayers. May the Lord bless you richly out of Zion!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Dr Jürgen Bühler
ICEJ President

COVER PHOTO:
Birthday celebration for Rita,
one of the residents of the
Haifa Home for Holocaust
Survivors

For magazine archives visit
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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EGYPT MY PEOPLE!

PRAYING FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF ISAIAH 19

BY DR JÜRGEN BÜHLER • ICEJ PRESIDENT

A recent visit to Egypt by a group of ICEJ leaders opened our eyes about the amazing things God is doing there and the great plans He has for this ancient nation, particularly with regard to Israel.

After Israel, Egypt appears in the Bible more than any other nation. It is an extraordinary land with a widely influential culture that dates back earlier than even the history of Israel. Besides Babylon, Egypt was the first world empire to emerge after the Flood, and in the following centuries it would greatly impact Jewish history. The exodus from Egypt shaped the national identity of Israel like no other event. Egypt was also the only country besides Israel that Jesus lived in. It thus has a rich church history. The Coptic Church is possibly the oldest existing church in the world and takes its name from the Arabic word for Egypt, *qubt*.

No wonder the Hebrew prophets also predict a glorious end-time history for the nation of Egypt. But let's start from the beginning.

Israel's Ancient Connection with Egypt

The biblical story of Egypt starts right after the



Mosaic of the holy family outside a Coptic church in Cairo built on the traditional spot where Jesus lived as a young Jewish boy

Flood, when Egypt (or *Mizraim*) is introduced as one of the grandsons of Noah and a son of Ham (Genesis 10:6). When God called Abraham out of Ur in Chaldea, he journeyed to the promised land. Yet soon afterward a famine broke out in Canaan and he “went down to Egypt” (Genesis 12:10). When he arrived there, the great pyramids of Giza—massive stone structures that puzzle engineers to this day—had already been standing for a few hundred years. Once Abraham and Sarah left Egypt, they returned with “male and female servants” (Genesis 12:16; 16:1). One of them was the woman Hagar, who birthed a son by Abraham named Ishmael and who became the main ancestor of the Arab tribes of the Middle East.

Isaac, too, was tempted to escape a famine toward Egypt, but the Lord instructed him to stay in the land “because I will bless you” (Genesis 26:2). But Isaac's son, Jacob, would die in Egypt—together with all the twelve patriarchs of the tribes of Israel. Joseph, one of these patriarchs, even became the prime minister of the Egyptian Empire, and through his wise leadership saved not only his family but also the entire world.

In Egypt, Israel grew to become a great people counting over a million souls. According to the rabbis, it was only during the exodus from Egypt—when God brought His people out “with an outstretched hand” to Mount Sinai—that Israel became a nation. Because of its system of slavery and oppression, the Bible usually refers to Egypt from then on as a sinful nation, representing human strength and efforts that fail to deliver (Isaiah 31:1–3). Even the book of Revelation refers to the fallen state of earthly Jerusalem as “Sodom and Egypt” (Revelation 11:8).

Yet throughout history, there was always a strong Jewish community in Egypt. The



The Giza pyramids

Bible reports Jews fleeing to Egypt during the Babylonian occupation of Israel (Jeremiah 40:6–8; 43:5–7). Later in the Greek period, a further influx of Jews to Egypt is reported. When Alexander the Great established the coastal city of Alexandria around 332 BC, a notable portion of its inhabitants were Jewish. The historian Josephus reports that the Jewish population of Alexandria and all of Egypt numbered up to one million people. It was so strong that Alexandria became a center of Jewish thought and philosophy, with Philo (20 BC–50 AD) considered one of the most influential thinkers of his time. Josephus even reports that a replica of the Jerusalem temple was built by Onia, the son of a high priest, on the Nile island of Elephantine. Titus destroyed this structure in AD 71, shortly after Herod's temple in Jerusalem was leveled, in order to prevent the rise of a new center of Jewish worship.



But something else came out of Alexandria that would become a main tool to spread Christianity: the first translation of the *Tanach* (Old Testament) into a foreign language—Greek. This translation was done on the order of Ptolemy II, an Egyptian ruler who felt strongly that the Hebrew Scriptures should be added to and made accessible in the legendary library of Alexandria. The translation is called the *Septuagint*, referring to the 70 Jewish translators. The Septuagint (or LXX) was then widely used by the early church, and many OT references in the Greek New Testament quote directly from this text. The significance of this translation of the Bible into a commonly-used language can hardly be overestimated and might be paralleled only by the translation of Luther almost 1800 years later into another common language—German. The Egyptian-spawned Septuagint became the book Paul and all the apostles preached from when they traveled the world.

**BUT NO DOUBT, THE PURPOSE OF GOD
FOR EGYPT IS TO BRING THEM TO A
POINT WHERE GOD CAN SAY:
“EGYPT MY PEOPLE!”
THIS GIVES US A
STRATEGIC WAY TO PRAY.**

When Jesus was born, He in a way “relived” the history of Israel in relation to Egypt. Like his ancestors, He had to flee to Egypt—instructed by an angel—and would return years later to fulfill the prophecy of Hosea: “Out of Egypt I called My son” (Matthew 2:15, quoting Hosea 11:1). It is amazing to see the richness of the Coptic tradition today concerning the various places the holy family lived and visited. Most of these places are linked to the extensive Jewish presence in ancient Egypt.

When the gospel spread around the world decades later, it quickly reached Egypt, as Jews from Egypt had been present in Jerusalem to witness the unusual events on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:10). According to tradition, the evangelist Mark became the bishop in Alexandria, and he may even have been the founder of the very first “Christian” Bible school in the world.

Today, the oldest New Testament parchment, the Ryland P52 fragment, dating to possibly the first century, was found in Egypt. When the Council of Nicea later decreed to change the Passover celebration to Easter, it was the Church of the East—most prominently Alexandria—that resisted this new anti-Jewish law from Constantine the longest. Eventually Egypt was also infected by the anti-Semitic trends of the church, and the Christian rulers of Alexandria expelled all Jews from the city.

The Isaiah 19 Highway

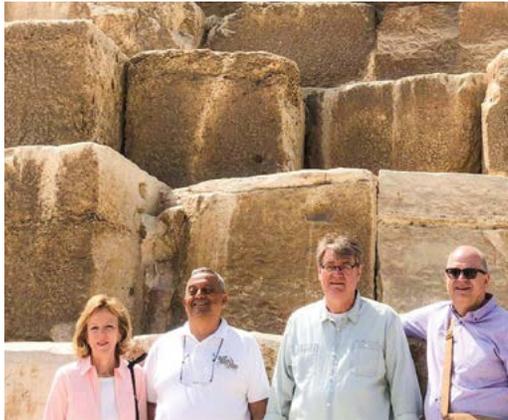
All this indicates that in a very unique way God’s hand seems to be on the nation of Egypt throughout history. Egypt became an agent of deliverance for Israel but also a subject of God’s judgment because so many times they failed the people of God. But God always seemed to give special attention to Egypt. The prophet Isaiah, in chapter 19, foresees—like no other prophet—the purpose of God for Egypt, and with it, for the entire Middle East.

Isaiah’s vision starts with “God coming to Egypt” (Isaiah 19:1). The immediate result is not revival and blessing but a season of immense shaking and turmoil. Political chaos with “Egyptians turning against Egyptians” will culminate with the rise of a “hard master” who will rule over the nation. In all this time of hopelessness, Egypt will call upon the Lord, and this will trigger a sequence of seven astonishing developments (Isaiah 19:16–24):

1. Egypt will fear the Lord and the nation of Israel;
2. Five cities will speak the language of Canaan;
3. There will be an altar to the Lord;
4. He will send a savior to defend and deliver them;
5. The Lord will make Himself known to the Egyptians;
6. The Lord will strike Egypt, and they will call upon Him and He will heal them; and
7. There will be a highway of blessing reaching from Egypt to Assyria via Israel.

ICEJ Leadership Team in Egypt

While we did not see the total fulfillment of the Isaiah 19 vision during our recent visit, we did see and hear firsthand some amazing developments in Egypt today that appear to be a powerful foreshadowing of the incredible things to come.



The ICEJ leadership team visits the Giza Pyramids in Egypt.

After the outbreak of the Arab Spring in 2011 and the turmoil that followed, many churches in Egypt were attacked by radical Muslim groups. The government initially did little to protect the churches. Soon, an Islamist, Muslim Brotherhood-led government came to power (with Western support) that erased any hope for religious freedom in the nation. Yet amidst this persecution, on November 11, 2011, the church of Egypt assembled for a historic prayer gathering attended by tens of thousands of believers in Cairo’s out-of-the-ordinary “Cave Church.” This was the beginning of a prayer movement that would spread over many cities

of Egypt. Many prayer altars have been built across the nation.

God answered their prayers in 2013 when Egypt witnessed the largest political protests in world history, as some 30 million people went to the streets across the country to demonstrate for a new, freer government. The global media failed to report the true significance of these historic demonstrations, which led to the more open government of Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The situation for the church in Egypt became more tolerable, and the country made a considerable shift in its attitude toward Israel.

While there is still pressure and occasional violence from Islamist groups, the churches are growing. Particularly among Muslims, God is revealing Himself in visions and dreams. But what is equally amazing is that a significant shift in theology has been taking place in recent years. While many of the churches held strong views of Replacement Theology concerning Israel, today there is a refreshing shift. No cities yet speak the “language of Canaan,” but there are many born-again believers—some of whom we met—who, because of the vision of Isaiah 19, now study Hebrew. One worship leader we met told us how, not long ago, he was praising and interceding with other Egyptian brothers when “the Spirit of God took hold of me” and for almost an hour he sang in perfect Hebrew, a language that he never spoken before.

Another amazing thing we learned while in Egypt is that over recent years believers there have started celebrating the biblical feasts. For instance, a network of over 700 Egyptian Christians has been gathering in various places each year to hold Passover Seder meals during the Easter season.

This finally brings me to the main reason we traveled to Egypt this Spring. The Lord has been speaking to us in recent years about the prophecy in Zechariah 14:16–19 of the nations coming to Jerusalem to “keep the Feast of Tabernacles.” Interestingly, the only nation mentioned by name is Egypt.

“If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.” (Zechariah 14:18)

The Lord placed it on our hearts to pray that God would open a door for Egyptian brothers and sisters to come and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles with us in Jerusalem. The Word of God gives a warning about the nations not coming to celebrate the Feast and Isaiah mentions Egypt in particular. But I like to look at it the other way around: if they do come for Tabernacles, then God will give their nation rain. We took this to mean that it would release a special blessing on the nation of Egypt.

This is a historic year for Egypt and Israel, as 2019 marks the 40th anniversary since Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty between their nations. We believe a strong delegation of Christians from Egypt at this year's Feast of Tabernacles could be a prophetic declaration that would release tremendous blessing upon Egypt.

When we met with the leaders to share our vision with the brothers in Egypt, we did not know what to expect and were not prepared for what we experienced. As they introduced themselves, they came straight to the point: "We believe in the vision of Isaiah 19, as we know that Zechariah 14 speaks about Egypt needing to come to the Feast. Can you please help us to make it possible?"

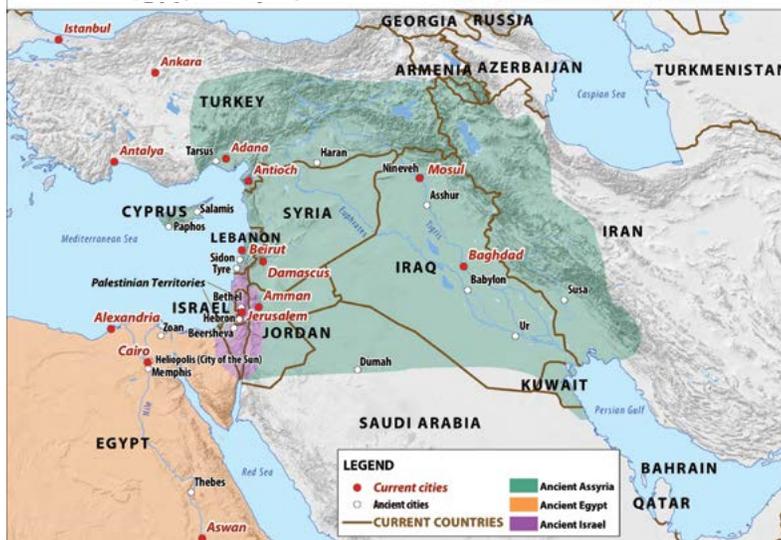
The door could not have been more open. We all agreed that the Lord has something special in store for this year's Feast of Tabernacles. It could be the beginning of something new, not only for Egypt but also for the region.

We have it on our heart to bring 40 pilgrims from Egypt to join us at this year's Feast. Many of the brothers and sisters need financial help, as the economic challenges will not allow them to come.

For that purpose, we have established the "Isaiah 19 Fund." This special account will be used to assist believers from Egypt to join us at this year's Feast of Tabernacles, as well as to enable us to rightly connect Egyptian pastors and ministry leaders with what God is doing here in Israel and especially within the Messianic body.

If you feel the Lord wants you to be part of what He is doing in Egypt, please prayerfully consider a donation toward the "Isaiah 19 Fund." The costs for one person from Egypt to join us at the Feast will be around

Ancient Egypt, Assyria, and Israel with Current Countries and Cities



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US \$1,500. Please stand with us in this timely and important matter. It will bless Israel, it will bless Egypt, and it will bless you as well.

We also feel this initiative will need to be expanded in the coming year. We already have similar requests from believers in Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon. For many of them, visiting Israel comes with a risk, but they believe it is important for them to be here—and we sense a strong leading to support them in this important mission.

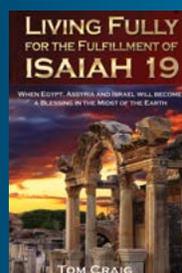
Finally, please join us in praying for all the Arab countries. Pray with us for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on these nations, and that we might have a greater understanding and revelation of God's purposes for Egypt and Assyria in our day.

No doubt, the purpose of God for Egypt is to bring them to a point where God can say: "Egypt My people!" For the nations that comprise the ancient Assyrian Empire (Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and even into Iran, Turkey, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia), His declared purpose is to bring them to a point where He can declare: "Assyria, the work of My hands!" And all of them, together with Israel, will be a blessing in the midst of the earth (Isaiah 19:24–25). This gives us a strategic way to pray, as well as an incredible vision of hope for the future. 🌍

Give Today to the ISAIAH 19 FUND

The ICEJ is expecting as many as 40 Egyptian pilgrims to come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles 2019. This is not only a historic year as Israel and Egypt mark 40 years of the peace treaty between their nations but it also holds great prophetic significance, as these believers are coming in response to the vision of Isaiah 19 and in obedience to the call of Zechariah 14:16–19 that Egypt should come up to Jerusalem to "keep the Feast of Tabernacles." However, most will need help covering the costs of this visit to Israel. Please join us in assisting these precious brothers and sisters in Christ to make the journey to Jerusalem for Sukkot. It will cost approximately US \$1,500 for each person from Egypt to attend the weeklong Feast. Your gift to the Isaiah 19 Fund will help make it possible.

Please give your best gift today to the Isaiah 19 Fund.
Donate online at www.icejusa.org/isaiah-19-fund

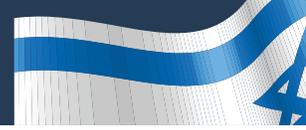


Living Fully for the Fulfillment of Isaiah 19 By Tom Craig

What do current events in the Middle East have to do with the kingdom of God—and why should believers care? Understanding the prophetic vision of Isaiah 19 brings sense to the seemingly nonsensical conflicts plaguing that vital region of the world. The Lord is preparing to propel Egypt onto a turbulent course of divine confrontation and spiritual breakthrough, leading to the entire nation of surviving Egyptians becoming worshippers of the Lord—and joining with the other nations of the Middle East including Israel to become "a blessing in the midst of the earth" (Isaiah 19:24).



Order your copy today online at www.icej.store



ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler (center) receives the prestigious Yakir Award from the leaders of Keren HaYesod.

KEREN HAYESOD HONORS ICEJ WITH ANNUAL YAKIR AWARD

BY ICEJ STAFF

In May, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was chosen by Keren HaYesod/United Israel Appeal to receive its prestigious Yakir Award in recognition of the ICEJ's longstanding record of support and friendship for Israel and the Jewish people.

"I was humbled and honored to receive the Yakir Award from Keren HaYesod on behalf of the Christian Embassy's leadership and worldwide family," said ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler. "This recognition reflects the hard work and commitment of scores of Christians around the globe who have expressed their support for Israel in so many ways through our ministry over the past four decades."

The Yakir award is given to Keren Hayesod's top fundraisers each year, as well as to those who have distinguished themselves by their contributions in pursuit of the same goals as Keren Hayesod, both in Israel and throughout the Jewish world. Keren HaYesod is a quasi-governmental body that raises private donations to supplement Israeli state funding to carry out charitable and social projects through the Jewish Agency.

At the gala banquet in Tel Aviv, an aspiring young attorney from the Ethiopian Jewish community—whose parents arrived in Israel as part of the emergency airlift of thousands of Ethiopian Jews stranded in Sudan in 1984, known as "Operation Moses"—introduced the ICEJ's work. Over recent years, the ICEJ has sponsored the flights of some 2,000 Ethiopian Jewish immigrants, in addition to our many other Aliyah projects.

ICEJ leadership currently is closely connected to Keren HaYesod's new chairman, Samuel Grundwerg, as well as with Isaac Herzog, the world chairman of the Jewish Agency, its sister organization. 

ICEJ LAUNCHES YOUNG LEADERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

BY LILY SIRONI

Every year the ICEJ holds an annual International Leadership Conference (ILC) where branch leaders come together to share ideas, build relationships, and plan for the future. One exciting development that came out of our recent ILC in Jerusalem was the launching of an International Young Leaders Advisory Council (IYLAC).

The Embassy's senior leadership will look to this council of young leaders for advice on how to relate to their generation more effectively. The IYLAC will seek to infuse a more youthful outlook within the ICEJ network worldwide while also assisting us in attracting the next generation of believers and ministry leaders. Through personal engagement, Bible-based education, a revitalized social media presence, and an intentional ministerial shift, the ICEJ hopes to equip Christian millennials to become the Joshuas and Calebbs they are called to be.

The next generation is facing a crisis of faith, but it's not necessarily one of doubt or questioning the Lord. Rather, it is one rooted in misinformation and the spread of unsound biblical interpretations. So the IYLAC will aim to instill within the next generation the solid biblical truths and Judeo-Christian values they will need to face the challenges ahead.

We want you involved as well! We want to meet Next Gen believers and help empower you to achieve all that God has for you. Connect with our IYLAC team at Peter.Ecenroad@icejusa.org. 



Dr. Jürgen Bühler (far right) stands with the founding members of the International Young Leaders Advisory Council: (from left) Dan Steege, the new national director of ICEJ Australia; Jani Salokangas, the new national director of ICEJ Finland; Social Media Coordinator Lily Sironi; French Language Coordinator Camilla Troc; and Chinese Language Coordinator Haifa Lu.



ICEJ LEADERS MEET THE NEW MAYOR OF JERUSALEM

ICEJ President Dr. Jürgen Bühler and VP of Operations Barry Denison recently met with Jerusalem's new mayor, Moshe Lion, to convey our solidarity with *Yom Yerushalayim* (Jerusalem Day) and to reintroduce him to our longstanding work and ministry based in Israel's capital city. Dr. Bühler presented

Mayor Lion with a special commemorative book containing greetings collected by the ICEJ over the past 18 months from over 25,000 Christians around the world who expressed their love and best wishes for Jerusalem in connection with the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem. 🌍



ICEJ CELEBRATES JERUSALEM DAY WITH JEWISH AGENCY

The ICEJ's International Leadership Conference in mid-May concluded with a Jerusalem Day reception and dinner held at the special Kiryat Moriah campus operated by the Jewish Agency near the Haas Promenade in Jerusalem. The event not only celebrated a united Jerusalem as Israel's capital but also highlighted the Christian Embassy's close working relationship with the Jewish Agency over the past four decades. The guest list included a number of Israeli officials, local Jewish and Christian community leaders, and some 80 ICEJ national leaders and staff from 40 countries.

Speakers included Jewish Agency official Roman Polonski, who oversees Aliyah and absorption programs for Russian-speaking immigrants, as well as Josh Reinstein, director of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus. The keynote remarks were delivered by Reuven Azar,

the former deputy head of mission at Israel's Embassy in Washington and currently the senior foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Also a member of Israel's national security council, Azar expressed great appreciation for Christian support of Israel. He was generous with his time and thoughts, answering a variety of questions in a lengthy Q&A session with our national directors. While giving due attention to the threats and challenges facing Israel, he chose to emphasize the positive opportunities and advances the nation has been experiencing over recent years.

This proved to be a fitting end to an energizing International Leadership Conference for all involved. 🌍



A NEW BEGINNING FOR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF YAD VASHEM

BY ICEJ STAFF

Sari Granitza (second from left) with her CFYV team at the NRB

Sari Granitza may be stepping into the shoes of Dr. Susanna Kokkonen as Director of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, but she is no stranger to this revered institution and to the tragic legacy of the Holocaust, which it seeks to memorialize in perpetuity. Her family on both her father and mother's side lost many members to the Nazi genocide against the Jews of Europe. She has worked for well over a decade at Yad Vashem to help preserve the memory of the six million Jews killed in the Shoah. We recently asked Sari to share about her work with Yad Vashem and her vision for its outreach to Christians going forward.

From childhood, the subject of the Holocaust always moved and interested Sari, who grew up surrounded by Holocaust Survivors in the Israeli city of Bnei Brak. Even her kindergarten teacher had a number tattooed on her arm. This early introduction planted seeds deep in her heart that blossomed when she joined the staff at Yad Vashem more than 15 years ago.

"I feel that Yad Vashem is fulfilling an important mission, and I am proud to be a part of this great institution, which gives a voice to the Holocaust victims and Survivors," Sari explained. "As time goes on and the number of remaining Survivors dwindles, we need to continue to pass on their legacy and to learn and teach about what happened to ensure for a better world of acceptance and mutual respect for one another."

WFJ: *As the new Director of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem (CFYV), what is your basic message to Christians about the importance of Holocaust education and of supporting the mission of CFYV?*

SARI: In the Bible, we are commanded to remember [significant events] and pass [them] on to future generations: "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt" (Deuteronomy 25:17). We are to tell our children about it, let our children tell their

children, and their children another generation—which is exactly what the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem does.

It is important to recognize and be vigilant when we see hatred and anti-Semitism rising. Being a bystander is not an option as that just endorses them. To stand up to anti-Semitism, it is crucial to know the facts, to recognize it, and to know how to fight back within our communities. I believe this starts with education—[by arming] people with historically accurate facts in order to combat distorted and false facts.

Yad Vashem is the spiritual home of the victims—those who were murdered and those who survived. They asked us never to forget and to continue telling their story. We see countries, institutions, and individuals that are not necessarily denying the Holocaust, but are distorting the facts. Through the artifacts, documents, and testimonies Yad Vashem is collecting and the research Yad Vashem is conducting, we serve as a voice to the victims and Survivors and will continue to be their voice when they are no longer with us.

WFJ: *What is your vision for CFYV going forward? What has worked best so far, and what new initiatives do you want to pursue?*

SARI: It is crucial to reach out to Christians in all corners of the world. Our mission is a common one, and we want and need Christians as partners. As the generation of Holocaust Survivors dwindles, people of all faiths must now join forces to carry on the torch of remembrance and build bridges of understanding, cooperation, and friendship between the Christian world and the Jewish world.

It is our obligation as religious believers to learn from the past and educate future generations with the facts. We must empower the younger Christian generations with accurate and reliable historical information, teaching them to follow the example of the Righteous Among the



Cary Summers of the Museum of the Bible visits the Yad Vashem booth.



Holocaust Survivor speaks to Calvary Chapel Ft. Lauderdale tour group at Yad Vashem.

Nations, who took it upon themselves not to be bystanders but to actively choose good over evil.

In a private conversation with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he mentioned that we often see that there is a lack of general knowledge in the current generation. A survey conducted by the Claims Conference published on Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 revealed some concerning statistics:

- over two-thirds of Americans had never heard of Auschwitz;
- half could not name a single concentration camp or ghetto;
- one-third claim that less than 2 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust; and
- 58% believe a similar event could take place again.

My vision is to try and change these statistics and make the world more knowledgeable

about the Holocaust. To do this, we will partner with ICEJ and continue to host many visitors and groups like the Christian Leadership Seminar. We'll travel globally to lecture and provide ready-to-print exhibitions for display in schools, churches, universities, libraries, and community centers around the world.

Some of our new initiatives include:

- A new representative of CFYV in the United States, Rev. Mark Jenkins, who will regularly travel to different churches and communities to spread our message.
- For the first time, we had a CFYV booth at the 2019 National Religious Broadcaster's (NRB) Convention.

WFJ: *How troubled are you by the growing rise in anti-Semitism worldwide? What will CFYV be doing to combat it?*

SARI: It amazes me that anti-Semitism still exists and is thriving in the world after the Holocaust and in the twenty-first century with all its advancements. We must remember wherever there is anti-Semitism there is also hatred, xenophobia, racism, and consequently violence. It is not strictly a Jewish issue.

A major tool to combat the rise of anti-Semitism is access to complete and accurate information. The work carried out by the Yad Vashem Archives and Research Department is crucial. As time passes, countries and institutions are distorting the facts. Yad Vashem is currently engaged in an urgent eleventh-hour project to recover and document the truth from the generation that witnessed the events. Collecting testimonies from Survivors is more important now than ever before. We want to encourage our Christian friends to partner with us in this project.

I invite Christian leaders from around the world to participate in the ICEJ-sponsored Christian Leadership Seminar at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem to become ambassadors equipped with tools to educate their communities to stand up against anti-Semitism.

We are all created in the image of God. With this premise in mind, I believe it is important for us to continue building bridges between Jewish and Christian worlds to advance toward our common goals. 🌐

Christian Friends of Yad Vashem was founded in 2005 in partnership with the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem. It is crucial for Yad Vashem to continue with this important work! The Israeli government meets just 40% of Yad Vashem's annual budget; the shortfall is funded through private donations. For more information or to support the work of Christian Friends of Yad Vashem, please go to: www.icejusa.org/yadvashem



MUCH HAPPENING AT THE HAIFA HOME FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS!

BY KAYLA MUCHNIK

To be honest, there is always something happening at the ICEJ's Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors! This is what makes it so difficult to share all of the amazing events that occur. So, here's a taste of the many activities going on at the Haifa Home.

The Joy of Good Food

Hunger is something every Jewish Survivor experienced during the Holocaust. Many still live with the fear of going without food. This is one reason it is so important to provide nutritious meals for the Home's residents. The dining hall brings the community together over

tasty food and makes everyone feel like family. In June, we welcomed a talented young cook to the community kitchen. He



not only gave the kitchen a new look but also cooks the most colorful and delicious meals to the delight of the residents. A group of young enthusiastic employees from the Strauss Group recently prepared a healthy brunch for our residents. The presentation of the food was beautiful. While enjoying the delicious and healthy food, the residents received a lecture about healthy eating. Our residents love food and enjoy a good meal. It was such

a joyful time of fellowship. 🌍



A birthday celebration for Harry, a Holocaust Survivor



Mania, a Survivor of the Transnistria concentration camps, was deeply touched by the lovely letter and gifts she received from one of her Finnish adopters.

Adopt a Survivor

The ICEJ's Adopt a Survivor Program provides a steady source of monthly income to meet the Home's ongoing needs. Though this financial support is greatly needed, the adoption program offers so much more. Special relationships have been established between resident Survivors and their adoptive Christian families through letters, cards, and sometimes presents adopters send by post or even bring in person.

Mania, a Survivor of the Transnistria concentration camps, was deeply touched by the lovely letter and gifts she received from one of her Finnish adopters. An elated Mania said, "Isn't this beautiful? Look at the colors. Look how it suits me!" It is not only the gifts or words that make the residents happy but the knowledge that someone abroad thinks of them and has not forgotten them. 🌐

Becoming a Voice for Israel

Not one month passes at the Haifa Home without hosting groups from different parts of the world who are donors or related to the ICEJ. In the 90 minutes that they are with us, they are able to meet one of the residents and if possible hear his/her story, visit the on-site museum which is a small but powerful representation of the lives of our residents during the Holocaust, and sense the special connection of Jews and Christians in this home. Groups often leave with tears in their eyes and exchange many hugs and kisses with the residents. Not only do the residents feel heard and not forgotten, but groups are challenged to be a voice for Israel and to be active in the battle against the growing tide of Anti-Semitism. 🌐



To adopt a Survivor today, visit our website at:
www.icejusa.org/adopt



Sharing the Past to Make a Better Tomorrow

So far this year, 20 ICEJ-linked groups have visited the Haifa Home. Some nations represented were Taiwan, Canada, United States, Norway, Netherlands, Finland, Hong Kong, Iceland, Faroe Islands, England, Switzerland, and Germany. When possible, the groups hear from Holocaust Survivors themselves, but we also recognize it is difficult for Survivors to share their horrific story over and over again. This is why each group gets to go through a unique on-site museum that displays many of the personal stories of the Home's residents. This allows the Survivors to share their stories with visitors without having to relive those atrocious memories time after time.

Once visitors hear about and see some of these tragic moments from the past, they can better understand residents' deep wounds and minister to their hearts with compassion and grace. 🌐



A Breath of Fresh Air for Residents

One of the best ways to forget the daily aches and pains that come with getting older is to have a little fun! Recently, a new van was donated that gives the residents, including those in wheelchairs, the opportunity to go on leisurely outings around Haifa. One day, we took the residents to a nice restaurant at the beach where they enjoyed not only a refreshing drink but also each other's company. With the many physical restrictions that come with old age, it's a breath of fresh air for residents to go out for an adventure around town. 🌐

Getting Ready for New Arrivals

Our "out of the ordinary Home" presents different challenges with residents' age and physical restrictions. Some people who came healthy, independent, and mobile, are now in need of a caretaker or unable to climb the stairs anymore. In the coming months, some residents will make a move to an apartment on the ground floor, which also makes room for new residents to move in upstairs.

With the help of volunteers from the United Kingdom plus Israeli staff, two new apartments being remodeled in one of our buildings are almost ready to receive their new residents. 🌐





Celebrating the Feasts

The Haifa Home is intentional about celebrating all of the biblical Feasts. The most recent Jewish holiday we celebrated was the Feast of Weeks, *Shavuot* or Pentecost. This Feast is also called the Feast of the Giving of the Torah. According to Jewish tradition, God gave the Law to the people of Israel at Sinai on this specific date. We celebrated at the Haifa Home with a special gathering for the residents, which included explanations of the Feast and Jewish traditions that have been added throughout history. We also enjoyed a delicious meal and cheesecake for dessert, which is the traditional food for this holiday. The atmosphere was joyful and festive, and it gave residents another opportunity to rejoice and come together as a family! 🌍



A Time to Dance

Every Wednesday night at the Haifa Home you'll find residents gathered in the dining hall for an evening of music and dancing. It's a special time for the residents, staff, and volunteers to bond together over some great music and awesome dance moves. Because dance and music are important in Israeli culture, this weekly event is popular with many of the residents. It fills our Survivors with joy and brings back memories of good times. They dance together and alone. Genia, even at 94, is often the first to start dancing!

"Everything hurts, but when I dance I feel young again. It reminds me of the good times and gives me joy," Genia said.

Not everyone is physically able to dance, but that doesn't stop residents from coming to enjoy the music and watch others dance. It's such a special weekly event that people and soldiers from the community often join in on the dance party!

"It's an evening they look forward to. On Tuesday, they are already asking us if we will come to dance," noted Tamaris, the Haifa Home's longest-serving volunteer.

The Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors is in need of finances to provide the best care for its residents and to handle general upkeep of the Home. Send your most generous gift today, and impact the lives of Holocaust Survivors while you can! 🌍

To donate, go to: www.icejusa.org/haifa



GERMAN CHRISTIANS CELEBRATE 70 YEARS OF ISRAEL-GERMANY RELATIONS

BY BIRTE SCHOLZ

In May, some 1,200 Christians from various church backgrounds gathered in Stuttgart to celebrate Israel and Germany's 70 years of relations, an event hosted by the German Branch of the ICEJ. Special guests from Israel included Holocaust Survivor Erika Teller from Jerusalem, World Chairman of Keren Hayesod Sam Grundweg, Director of Operation Lifeshield Rabbi Shmuel Bowman, and Pastor Colin Mitchell from Haifa.

"We are thankful for God's grace toward the Federal Republic of Germany" ICEJ Germany National Director Gottfried Bühler told the gathering. "He blessed us—that's why we are living in freedom, peace, and prosperity."

"We also want to thank the United States for starting us off economically with the Marshall Plan," Gottfried said. "But it is the greatest miracle that the Jewish people and the State of Israel were willing to hold talks and establish diplomatic relations with Germany—just a short time after the Holocaust."

The program included a memorial event to mark *Yom HaShoah* (Israel's Holocaust Remembrance Day), prayer for Israel, Germany, and the nations, an excellent Klezmer concert by a chamber orchestra, and a dynamic time of worship and dance performances. The outpouring of support and love for Israel left a deep impression on the Jewish guests. 🌍

THE CHURCH IS ALIVE IN GEORGIA AND ARMENIA

BY BARRY DENISON • VP OF JERUSALEM OPERATIONS

My recent ministry trip to the nations of Georgia and Armenia was fruitful and encouraging, thanks in large part to the great work being done there by the ICEJ's Regional Coordinator Serguei Popov. Both of these ancient countries have a long, rich Christian heritage. The Evangelical movement there is breathing new life into the churches, stirring a heart for Israel as well as a passion for missions into the Arab/Muslim world.

In Georgia, I spoke and Serguei performed on violin at the Central Presbyterian Church of Tbilisi, where the bishop also serves as the national director of ICEJ Georgia. The church was filled with close to 1,000 people. We then traveled to two Word of Life churches

in other Georgian towns, which were equally supportive of the ICEJ.

We then traveled to Yerevan, in Armenia, where local Word of Life and Pentecostal pastors hosted us. The two weekend services at the Word of Life congregation each drew between 1,500 and 2,000 believers. In one service, we recognized the new ICEJ representative for Armenia, Pastor Arsen. His church is particularly amazing—besides loving Israel, this church is sending out workers and church planters into Iran, Lebanon, and Syria, as well much of the former Soviet Union. It was a great joy to fellowship with these Christians who are on fire for God's purposes for both Israel and the nations. 🌍



ICEJ VP Barry Denison preaches in Georgia

MARCHING FOR ISRAEL ALL AROUND THE WORLD

BY MOJMIR KALLUS • VP OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

PRAGUE

Today, Christians are showing support for the Jewish people in many nations because God is increasingly speaking in many ways to the body of Christ in our day. They pray for Jerusalem because the Holy Spirit has impressed upon them the words of Isaiah: “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” (62:6–7). They donate money because the apostle Paul has spoken to them: “For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things” (Romans 15:27). And they show solidarity with the Jewish

people according to the words written in Isaiah 40:1–2: “Comfort, yes, comfort My people! Says your God. Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

One way to comfort Israel is to organize public events in which Christians march through the streets of their cities and express love and solidarity with the Jewish people. I recently had the privilege of participating, within two weeks, in two such marches. One took place in the center of Europe—in Prague, in unusually cold and rainy weather. The other occurred in Suva, the capital of Fiji, along the shores of

the Pacific in tropical climate under palm trees. Despite the differences in temperature and culture, however, the experience was strikingly similar. In both cities, hundreds of Christians marched with Israelis while carrying local flags, dancing, and praying for the peace of Jerusalem. Christians from several surrounding Pacific island nations joined the march and rally in Fiji, as well representatives from Australia and New Zealand who were attending an ICEJ regional conference.

This is happening because these diverse Christians share the same Holy Spirit and read the same Word of God. This Word indeed was sent forth out from Jerusalem and has literally reached the ends of the earth. 🌐

A WARM RECEPTION IN THE IVORY COAST

BY MOJMIR KALLUS
VP OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

In May, I traveled to the Ivory Coast with ICEJ president, Dr. Jürgen Bühler, as well as Messianic Jewish Pastor Jacques Elbaz, to strengthen our ties with local Christian leaders in this key country at the center of French-speaking West Africa.

We were welcomed by the Evangelical Federation Ivory Coast’s President, Dr. Apollinaire Gboagnon and his team. Jürgen then preached to a large crowd at a Sunday service in his church. We later met the outgoing Israeli ambassador, followed by a time of ministry in the Word with about 50 pastors and denominational leaders. We also were interviewed on LMTV about the ICEJ and gave a warm invitation for its viewers to attend our Feast of Tabernacles. (Last year, over 600 West African pilgrims came to Jerusalem for the Feast with LMTV founder Dieudonne Gollet and other tour leaders). Finally, we held another gathering with about 30 pastors in the city of Yamoussoukro.



IVORY COAST

Pastor Elbaz, originally from France, was helpful in preparing our visit in coordination with Dr. Apollinaire, a highly respected national leader who understands the objectives of the ICEJ and wants to continue building our work there. We look forward to welcoming many Ivorian pilgrims again at this year’s Feast, as well as returning with a strong delegation in April 2020 for a nationwide rally to support Israel and pray for the Ivory Coast. 🌐



YOUR ISRAEL ANSWER:

Why More Embassies Are Not Moving to Jerusalem

By David Parsons, ICEJ Vice President & Senior Spokesman

In mid-May, we reached the one-year anniversary of the United States opening its embassy in Jerusalem. Many Israelis and their friends worldwide found the occasion worth celebrating. US President Donald Trump certainly made a historic and courageous decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to move the American Embassy there last May 14, 2018. Indeed, Trump has pointed to the Embassy move as perhaps the biggest and proudest accomplishment of his first two years in office.

Yet the passing of this moment also raised questions as to why more embassies have not been relocated to the Israeli capital since then. What is holding back other national leaders who are friendly to the United States and Israel and who have repeatedly promised to do right by Jerusalem?

Certainly, there was early momentum created by the US Embassy opening. Yet so far, only Guatemala has fully followed the United States' lead by officially recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving their embassy there. The out-going president of Paraguay also quickly made the move, but his successor just as promptly returned their embassy to Tel Aviv.

The Czech Republic and Slovakia each opened an office for cultural affairs in Jerusalem but did not give these offices diplomatic status. In contrast, Hungary has opened a trade office in Jerusalem and declared it to have diplomatic standing. Elsewhere in Eastern Europe, Romania's top leaders have made contradictory statements on moving their embassy to Jerusalem.

After promising so much more, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison recognized only west Jerusalem as Israel's capital and so far has merely announced plans to open a trade office there. But he just won reelection by a surprisingly solid margin and may now be ready to do more.

Brazil's new President Jair Bolsonaro repeatedly promised to move his nation's embassy to Jerusalem, but to date has only officially announced plans to open a trade office in the Israeli capital. Honduras also has announced plans to open a trade office there. Lastly,

the leaders of Georgia and the Philippines have both suggested they may move their national embassies to Jerusalem, but nothing official has happened yet.

So why have we not seen a larger parade of nations making their way up to the eternal city of Jerusalem?

Logistical Obstacles

First, there are a lot of expenses and logistical considerations in making such a move. Jerusalem and Tel Aviv are only an hour apart (in good traffic). But moving an embassy involves more than finding a new office building; it means moving diplomats as well, and they require new homes and new schools for their families. Jerusalem is only now beginning to prepare for such an influx of diplomatic personnel.

Economic Concerns

Many nations expected concrete incentives and rewards for moving their embassies, in the form of increased American foreign aid and investment, or perhaps US assistance for acquiring Israeli technologies. The Trump administration even suggested as much. Recall that UN ambassador Nikki Haley said the Trump White House would be "taking names" on this issue and hinted that there would be both punishments and payouts based on how nations decided to react to the US president's lead on Jerusalem. However, there is little to report yet in terms of real benefits flowing to the countries that have taken steps to recognize Jerusalem.

International Pressure

Meantime, those opposed to Trump's push for wider recognition of Jerusalem have been working hard to undermine his efforts and punish those who seek to follow suit. Sometimes it has been through overt economic threats, which go well beyond the familiar use of Arab oil as a political weapon. For instance, Muslim nations such as Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Malaysia have threatened to end all beef purchases from Australia and Brazil if they move their embassies, which would cost these nations billions of US dollars in annual trade revenues. Other times, it has been by covert political pressure, such as the reports out of capitals in Eastern Europe that German Chancellor Angela Merkel has personally warned them against recognizing Jerusalem.

Waiting on US Elections

Finally, the biggest reason many nations are holding back on moving their embassies to Jerusalem may be that they are waiting to see if Trump will win a second term as president. At this point, the American presidential elections are already starting to heat up, and numerous democratic contenders are taking a much tougher stance on Israel than Trump. So why would a nation move to Jerusalem when the next American president might abandon the city, leaving them high-and-dry?

I anticipate Trump's friendly policies toward Israel, and especially his stand on Jerusalem, will become a prominent issue in the upcoming American presidential elections. Israel's evangelical Christian friends will be pressed to keep him in office. If they manage to do so, the momentum will return once more for the nations to ascend to Jerusalem. 🌐

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"In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth." (Isaiah 19:24)

Recently, an ICEJ leadership delegation visited Egypt and found some truly amazing prophetic developments there. God is doing an awesome work in the hearts of Egyptian believers to draw them to the Lord's purposes for Israel in this day. They are catching on to the vision of Isaiah 19 for Arab-Jewish reconciliation, while also being drawn by the call of Zechariah 14:16–18 to come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles.

Thus, the Christian Embassy is expecting as many as 40 Egyptian pilgrims to come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles 2019. This is a historic year as Israel and Egypt mark 40 years of the peace treaty between their nations. It also holds great prophetic significance, as the Isaiah 19 highway is beginning to take shape and the invitation of Zechariah 14 resonates as never before for Egypt to come up to Jerusalem to "keep the Feast of Tabernacles"!

THEY NEED YOUR HELP!



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