

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM // JANUARY 2022 // USA EDITION



WORD

FROM JERUSALEM



2022

A WORLD AT THE CROSSROADS
OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES ABOUND IN 2022



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

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

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

Our vision is:

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

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



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INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM - USA

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

I greet you all from Jerusalem with the warmest thoughts and prayers for the new year. We acknowledge our world is at a crossroads and, with the Lord's help, we will address the many opportunities and challenges that abound, both here in Israel and in our nations.

Israel is a land of miracles and promises fulfilled—with even more promises waiting to be fulfilled. But it is also a land that has been contested from the beginning of time. Conquering our own promised land, the destiny the Lord has for each one of us, is a challenge that speaks to all of us.

As I write to you, tensions in Israel have increased of late, with several stabbing attacks against Jews and much internal crime and violence within the Arab sector. Also, the looming Iranian nuclear threat remains a major challenge for the Jewish state. Military exercises are currently being planned as Israel prepares for the worst. Yet amid it all, the Bible assures us that "He who watches over Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps" (Psalm 121:4). So, Israel continues to need our prayers to her ever-faithful God.

In the meantime, our ministry carries on with great impact. Right now, the ICEJ is stepping up our support for a historic wave of 3,000 Ethiopian Jewish immigrants expected to start arriving in Israel early this year. When the Israeli government asked for help, we pledged our full support. Many new challenges await new immigrants, especially those coming from Ethiopia. Leaving a rural, developing country, they arrive overnight in one of the most advanced hi-tech nations on earth. Though they dreamed of reaching Israel, many of them face imposing giants they might not have expected in the land of promise.

Our Aliyah and Absorption programs are geared to help struggling Israeli immigrants find their place and direction. We will not only help these Ethiopian newcomers reach the promised land, but we will remain at their side in the years to come as they adjust to a new life in Israel.

I pray that the Lord blesses you as you read through this magazine. Please prayerfully consider joining us as we stand with Israel and help give them the blessed future and hope promised by the Lord!

God bless you richly in this new year!

Dr. Jürgen Bühler
 President
 International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

COVER PHOTO: A World at the Crossroads:
 Envision 2022 Conference

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2022

A WORLD AT THE CROSSROADS

Opportunities and Challenges Abound in 2022

BY DR. SUSAN MICHAEL, USA DIRECTOR

The last two years certainly had their share of difficulties, but we at the ICEJ are so grateful for the ways God blessed our ministry and allowed us to grow in size and impact. A summary of last year's accomplishments follows in the next article, so I want to take a few moments here to look ahead to 2022. I believe the ministry of the ICEJ has never been as critical as it is now and will be in the coming years.



Blessing Israel

The last two years of shutdowns and lockouts did not hinder the calling or work of the ICEJ but enlarged it. Our staff operated as “boots on the ground,” delivering emergency assistance to many people. ICEJ projects in Israel will con-

tinue to grow in 2022, but there is particular urgency in several areas: Aliyah is increasing as the global situation is causing many Jews to feel safer in Israel and the need for bomb shelters in northern Israel is critical—not to mention the many aging Holocaust Survivors who need our loving care.

Feast of Tabernacles

A silver lining to the coronavirus shutdowns is that the annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration went global! Last year we were pleasantly surprised to find that many families and



churches had built *succahs* (booths) and hosted Feast watch parties. We anticipate this will increase, and satellite Feasts will take place all around the world—each connected to the Jerusalem celebration via streaming technology.

Global Expansion

From our Jerusalem headquarters, the ministry of the ICEJ reaches around the globe. We have a presence in over 90 countries, but we reach many more nations through our publications and online activities. We have experienced a boost in our work in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, where Evangelical Christianity is growing and interest in Israel is exploding. We are excited about the potential and are uniquely positioned to connect these thriving churches to Israel.

Teaching New Generations of Americans

Here at home in the United States, the view is slightly different. Evangelical Christianity has not just plateaued but is weakening as a movement. Churches are overwhelmed as society is becoming increasingly secular—even anti-Christian—and many are struggling to maintain biblical foundations in their congregations. One recent poll by Arizona Christian University's Cultural Research Center (CRC) found just 9% of self-identified American Christian adults hold a biblical worldview.

An integral part of the ICEJ's ministry

has always included educating Christians with the biblical worldview that explains the significance of Israel and the Jewish people. We are developing new content in all formats to reach future generations looking to understand their Bible and what God is doing on earth today. These tools, built for individuals and churches, include podcasts, blogs, videos, books, and small group study series. We are also producing online courses for university students—our first course is being taught at South Florida Bible College and Seminary this semester!

Growing Antisemitism

One aspect of this education is to teach Christians how to recognize antisemitism and stand against it. I never thought I would see the day when so many Jews in America are encountering antisemitism. Many have said they refrain from wearing Jewish symbols to avoid drawing attention to their Jewish identity. As antisemitism is moving from the fringes and into mainstream America, Israel is quite concerned they will lose the support of the United States under future generations of politicians.

The ICEJ is educating Christian leaders about the Holocaust and the dangers of being silent when antisemitism raises its ugly head. We are first bringing awareness of the problem and then must train Christians how to stand against this evil.

A Nuclear Iran

As critical as combatting antisemitism is, it is not the number-one challenge Israel faces. Iran has been openly threatening to wipe Israel off the map while seeking to build nuclear weapons capable of doing so. Experts predict Iran is just weeks away from crossing the nuclear threshold, and when they do, this radical regime will be brazen and free to do what it wants in the region.

Their first step may not be a nuclear attack but to ignite a conventional war with Israel from Lebanon and Gaza. Therefore, we need to place as many bomb shelters as possible throughout the country. Shelters not only provide safety, but each one has a plaque attached, letting the community know it was provided by Christians who love them. This alone brings great peace of mind and hope.

2022—a Year of Opportunity

We all pray for easier times and the peace of Jerusalem. Until then, we will continue to take every opportunity to mobilize Christians to bless Israel and the Jewish people. We will be there for them no matter how difficult the coming days may be.

Through the ICEJ, you can be a voice of Christian love and comfort to the Jewish people amid these very concerning developments. You can educate



new generations of Christians around the world with the truth of God's Word about the Jewish people. Israel and the ICEJ are counting on your partnership in 2022! There is much for us to do, and together we can have the greatest impact ever. 🌍

Please give today to meet the challenges and opportunities of 2022: www.icejusa.org/impact-2022

HERE'S WHAT WE DID TOGETHER

As we look back at 2021, our ministry faced many unique challenges both here in Israel and worldwide due to the continuing impact of the global pandemic. But with your support and prayers, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem accomplished so much more than we could have anticipated.



JANUARY

Over 700 pastors and ministry leaders from around the globe took part in the ICEJ's Envision conference in January, marking our highest-ever participation rate at this annual gathering. Envision was held as primarily an online event, streaming out a timely, enriching series of Bible teachings, current affairs briefings, visits with Israeli officials, and panel discussions with local Jewish and Arab pastors.

FEBRUARY

Despite coronavirus travel bans, the ICEJ started the year by bringing hundreds of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, including one young Ethiopian boy who received life-saving heart surgery once in Israel. Between December 2020 and March 2021, the ICEJ sponsored flights for over 500 of the 2,000 Ethiopian Jewish immigrants who arrived in the "Operation Rock of Israel" airlift.



MARCH

With scores of Israelis struggling financially due to coronavirus, the ICEJ carried out its largest-ever Passover holiday distribution to poor and disadvantaged Jewish families across Israel while also delivering Easter gift baskets to Arab Christians throughout the Land.

APRIL

As Israel marked "Yom HaShoah," its annual Holocaust Remembrance Day, several leading Israeli media reported on the ICEJ's special Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa. The news outlets highlighted our team of Christian nurses and volunteers working at the Home, while one of the main Israeli TV channels aired a two-hour telethon to raise funds for the Home.



IN 2021 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

MAY

When Hamas launched yet another rocket war from Gaza, the Christian Embassy sprang into action by ordering 15 new portable bomb shelters and delivering protective vests and fire-fighting suits to first responders on the frontline border. The ICEJ also staged pro-Israel rallies worldwide. And despite the conflict, the ICEJ welcomed Aliyah flights with some 250 Jewish immigrants from a dozen countries just days after the fighting ended.



JUNE

The Christian Embassy welcomed the move of the Embassy of Honduras to Jerusalem and presented our prestigious Cyrus Award to visiting President Juan Carlos Hernandez for his principled decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Honduras was the third country to move their embassy to Jerusalem following the United States and Guatemala.



JULY

The ICEJ joined with charitable partners to open Israel's first National Call Center to serve the urgent needs of Holocaust Survivors nationwide. The center is located near our Home for Holocaust Survivors in Haifa, and plans are underway to open another call center in Jerusalem.



AUGUST

This year the ICEJ marked 25 years since the launch of our Homecare program, which provides in-home visits and nursing care for elderly and disabled Russian Jewish immigrants. Leading up to the Jewish New Year (*Rosh Hashana*), ICEJ Homecare delivered holiday baskets to many elderly and disabled patients across Israel. Their regular visits provide a lifeline for these precious elderly Israelis.



OCTOBER

The ICEJ continued to assist Jews making Aliyah to Israel at a record pace this year, including support for a group of 275 Bnei Menashe immigrants from India who arrived in October, along with more than 100 high school graduates from Russia and other former Soviet republics. Other recent arrivals on ICEJ-sponsored Aliyah flights included 32 immigrants from France in June—plus 87 from South Africa and 30 from North America in July.



DECEMBER

The Christian Embassy worked with Israeli authorities to prepare for an urgent airlift of 3,000 Ethiopian Jews. In 2021 the ICEJ assisted with Aliyah and integration to more than 4,000 new Jewish immigrants to Israel from over 20 countries worldwide, including sponsored flights for more than 1,500 new arrivals. We have now assisted over 160,000 Jews to make Aliyah to Israel.

These are examples of our many projects, events, and ministry highlights over the past year. With your support, we are bringing Jews home and helping settle them in the Land, caring for Holocaust Survivors, protecting vulnerable Israeli communities, and impacting churches and nations around the world.

SEPTEMBER

The ICEJ hosted its annual Feast of Tabernacles celebration as an online event, offering a *Sukkot* journey to key biblical sites across Israel. Many Feast participants worldwide built their own *sukkahs* (booths) and hosted a Feast watch party to mark the holiday. Altogether this year's Feast was celebrated by tens of thousands of Christians in over 100 nations.



NOVEMBER

ICEJ delivered some of the 36 new portable bomb shelters donated by Christians worldwide since the Gaza conflict in May, focusing on protecting vulnerable Israeli communities along the Gaza and Lebanese borders. We have now placed some 155 shelters throughout Israel.



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!**

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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Haifa Home Volunteer Team Complete

Our last two long-term volunteers arrived recently. Both from Germany, Kathlin and Steffi decided to volunteer for a year after high school and chose to do it at the Haifa Home. They are a breath of fresh, youthful air for us and our residents.

Steffi arrived at the end of October, and after a month of being in our midst, she is happy that she came. "It is so nice to see that the Haifa Home is not one building but actually a few streets," said Steffi. With a smile, she continued, "The people are so friendly! And even though I don't understand them, they keep talking to us. I really like it here and am glad I came!"

Kathlin already feels very much at home. "I love the elderly, and I can learn a lot from them. I love to see them laugh and dance. It gives me a joy that fills me. In the weekend, I miss them already and look forward to seeing them again at the beginning of the week."

Now our team of five is complete, and it's a great joy to get to know one another. We are investing in developing the Home and improving care for the residents in these last years of their lives by tapping into each volunteer's different talents. 🌍

Please continue to support the Haifa Home for Holocaust Survivors at:
www.icejusa.org/haifa



Beauty and Change

With a new team full of energy, we started to beautify the activity rooms and the physiotherapy room and are in the process of beautifying other communal areas of the Home.

With happy colors and some new furniture and decoration, the places are more inviting and enjoyable to spend time in. We also moved our ICEJ office to a first-floor apartment, so that former ground floor office could be renovated and made ready for a new resident. Lots of moving and lots of putting together of furniture had to be done. It became a great team effort and time of bonding for our team. The results are very satisfactory! 🌍



Memories of Hanukkah

ICEJ Homecare
pays a holiday
visit to Zachar

BY ICEJ STAFF WRITERS

During the eight days of Hanukkah each year, candle lights can be seen flickering in the windows of homes all across Israel, while the streets and squares feature larger *Hannukiah* menorahs with their distinctive nine candlesticks. The festival of Hannukah is a time to remember and celebrate the miracle of a small vial of oil burning for eight days in the Second Temple when it was rededicated in the times of the Maccabees.

During Hanukkah in December, our ICEJ Homecare team continued their weekly visits to elderly and disabled Russian Jewish immigrants who often feel sidelined by society. Most of them survived the horrors of the Second World War, which still casts a dark shadow over their lives to this day.

“We may not be aware of it, but every Holocaust Survivor is a miracle. Many of them are the sole survivors of a family, of a generation, and sometimes even of an entire community,” explains Corrie van Maanen, ICEJ Homecare head nurse.

Zachar is all alone in Israel. He is a blind

95-year-old Holocaust Survivor who looks forward to his Homecare visits, and Corrie knows that a cup of tea will always be waiting for her when she visits!

As they sit together, he carefully begins his Hanukkah story, searching the memories stored in his heart.

“I was five years old. My grandparents were religious,” recalled Zachar. “My grandfather had a purse, and when it was Hanukkah, he took out a *kapeika* (coin) for us. Together with my sister—she was two years older—we were allowed to go to the grocery store to buy special small cookies with that money.”

He gestures with his fingers to show how small the cookies were. “I was standing close to my sister, and she had to buy them. When we got home, our little brother was waiting for us to share in the goodies.

“The years before I was born, there had been violent pogroms, and mother and father had to hide.” Pondering a moment, Zachar continued. “Our beautiful Hanukkah

candlestick was gone, everything was stolen. My father had made a *Hanukkiah* from a potato, with a hole in it, a little oil, and a fuse.”

Zachar pauses once more, as if he sees it all again. “I had lovely parents. They loved us children. I remember it all so well because after the Communists took over, our lives were full of fear.”

Zachar slowly drinks his tea, enjoying each sip as he savors every moment of his Homecare visit. While telling this story from his life more than 85 years later in his kitchen in Jerusalem, it’s as if the dust is being blown off events that happened long ago. In Zachar’s life, there have been many situations in which the God of Israel has protected him from evil.

These dear, elderly immigrants to Israel are very precious in the Lord’s sight. We know He cares for the most vulnerable of His people and does it through the kindness and care we are giving because of your financial support. Thank you. You are helping touch these immigrants’ lives, bring light to their world, and lift their hearts. 🌍

Please continue to support ICEJ Homecare at:
www.icejusa.org/homecare

ICEJ JOINS EMERGENCY AIRLIFT OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS

BY DAVID PARSONS & ANASTASIYA GOODING

In late November, the Israeli cabinet approved plans to bring home 3,000 more Ethiopian Jews in an emergency airlift out of war-torn Ethiopia. At the request of the Jewish Agency for Israel, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem immediately committed to assisting with this urgent and historic Aliyah operation.



Members of the Tigray rebel militia head to battle. (Getty Images)

The tribal conflict has already claimed thousands of civilian lives and forced more than 2.5 million people to flee their homes. Meantime, there are concerns over food shortages due to the worsening drought and famine conditions, and many nations have warned their citizens

The decision to evacuate the 3,000 Jewish immigrants came amid reports of an escalation in the civil war in Ethiopia, with the Ethiopian president recently declaring a nationwide state of emergency and even going personally to the frontlines to lead the battle against the rebel Tigray militia.

to leave Ethiopia. This has led to growing calls from within the local Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel for an “Operation Solomon II.”

The most vocal advocate for such an airlift has been Pnina Tamano-Shata, the current Minister of Aliyah and Integration who arrived in Israel from Ethiopia herself at age three in an emergency airlift in the 1980s. There were reports she was even ready to quit the Bennett-Lapid government if her evacuation pleas were turned down.

Under the agreement reached by Tamano-Shata and Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked, the government will be bringing 3,000 Ethiopian Jews still living in transit camps in Addis Ababa and Gondar, provided they arrived in the camps more than 10 years ago and also have first-degree relatives already living in Israel.

The new cabinet decision will help implement an earlier government resolution from 2015 to bring home to Israel the last 9,000 eligible “Falash Mura”—Ethiopian Jews whose ancestors were coerced to convert to Christianity several generations back. Over 4,000 of these have already been brought to Israel—more than half of them on Aliyah flights sponsored by the ICEJ. The current airlift aims to bring another 3,000 “in the coming weeks,” leaving 2,000 or so to bring at a later stage.

The Jewish remnant still in Ethiopia has been living in run-down transit camps for up to two decades now, awaiting their turn to reunite with their families who have already reached Israel. We now have an opportunity as Christians to help lift them out of poverty and the growing dangers of the raging conflict, as well as to bring loved ones back together after many painful years of separation.

The Christian Embassy has pledged to be an active partner in this emergency airlift by sponsoring several hundred Ethiopian Jews on the first flights coming out of Addis Ababa. With your help, we can bring home even more, so they can reach safety in Israel and finally reunite their families in the promised land. 🌍



Aliyah Minister Pnina Tamano-Shata welcomes a young Ethiopian girl who arrived in Israel this past summer on a flight sponsored by the ICEJ. (JAFI photo)

Please give your best gift today to help with this urgent and historic Aliyah operation.

DONATE AT:

www.icejusa.org/ethiopian-aliyah



ICEJ SURPRISES ETHIOPIAN FAMILIES WITH POPULAR TEFF BREAD

Due to the civil war and worsening famine conditions in Ethiopia, it has become difficult for the Ethiopian Jewish community in Israel to obtain a daily staple of their diet—teff flour for baking their traditional flatbread. The special grain is only grown in the Horn of Africa, and unfortunately, exports from Ethiopia to the community in Israel have recently stopped. Yet this week,

through a key contact, the ICEJ had the chance to purchase a ton of teff flour and distribute it among 200 Ethiopian immigrant families at a gathering arranged by Israeli social workers in Netanya. The flour is so popular among the Ethiopian community here in Israel that the event turned into a festive gathering with a musical performance, a clown for the children, and a

large communal meal featuring everyone's favorite—teff bread!

The ICEJ continues to assist with the historic return of the Ethiopian Jewish community to Israel by sponsoring Aliyah flights and supporting new Ethiopian immigrants during their often long and difficult integration process into the country. 🌍

Please help with our Ethiopian Aliyah and absorption efforts by giving at: www.icejusa.org/ethiopian-aliyah

'TIS THE SEASON FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY GIFTS

During the Christmas season in December, the ICEJ took part in holiday distributions to local Arab Christian families throughout the Holy Land. Here a group of Embassy staff visited Nazareth, where they worked with a local church to pack some 450 beautiful gift bags for delivery on Christmas Eve to children from underprivileged Israeli families in Nazareth and Haifa. You can join us in showing love to more needy Israeli families by donating to ICEJ AID. 🌍



Give today at: www.icejusa.org/aid

*"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth."*

PSALM 127:3-4



Parenting is a blessing—however, it also comes with challenges best shouldered by two. Unfortunately, 12.8% of families (about 170,000 in all) in Israel today are single-parent households, and a staggering 90% of these are headed by women with a lower-earning capacity than men. This means many single-parent families face a constant battle of living on or below the poverty line.

The coronavirus crisis has exposed just how vulnerable single mothers genuinely are, and practical assistance is not always available for them. In Hebrew it is said, "They fall between the chairs"—which is why we are focusing on strengthening these families.

Some started as young mothers with no opportunity to study and learn a profession. Often they lack support or a good family example, and many even need to overcome trauma or destructive family patterns. In many ways, they were still children themselves and thus need encouragement and guidance to raise their own children.

Some mothers made the gigantic leap of faith and moved from their home country to Israel, adjusting to a vastly different language and culture. The challenges of adjusting to a new setting, learning the language, finding employment, or deciding on a school for the children—all without a ready support system—adds a whole new stress level to single parenting.



Before



After

At the ICEJ, we have been asking: How can we be a type of “extended” family for struggling young Israeli mothers and their children? The answer is by providing the basics, such as assistance toward career counseling and job training or sponsoring professional mentors who give the practical and emotional support that can build self-confidence.

Many mothers also require help with subsidized daycare, babysitters, afterschool activities, private tutors for the children, and other essentials—like basic home furnishings and repairs. Being ashamed of your living conditions only adds to the single mother’s feelings of isolation and despair.

ICEJ donors recently enabled one such mother to have a brand-new kitchen. The before and after images are stunning, and now she and her children have their dignity restored.

Can you imagine having to wash for years using water from a toilet tank? This is how an elderly grandmother, her single-parent daughter, and grandson had to bathe—they had no running water to shower. They diverted water from the toilet tank for four years and crouched in the bathtub to wash, which was extremely difficult for the grandmother to do. Your giving enabled a repair team to renovate the bathroom, restore the water connection, and install an easily accessible shower!

“In general, the women assisted are between the ages of 16 to 50,” explains Nicole Yoder, ICEJ Vice President for AID and Aliyah. “Many come from abusive backgrounds with no support system. Others are simply on their own due to divorce or early widowhood. They may lack education or basic life skills, which makes entering the workforce extremely challenging. Learning to parent is tough. Many young parents do not know how to set healthy boundaries, and it’s heartbreaking when the parent-child bond is not properly developed. If not dealt with, this can be the fertile source of a woundedness that

gets passed on to the next generation.”

*Alena is a widowed single mother with five children. She became exhausted while nursing her ill husband for many years, and then she was laid off work during Israel’s strict coronavirus lockdowns over the past year. ICEJ is currently helping Alena improve her self-confidence and prepare for job interviews.

*Leah came looking for help as a broken, divorced woman who had endured physical violence and the trauma of witnessing one of her parents commit suicide in front of her. She was so desperate to provide food for her two children that she fell into prostitution for a time. By obtaining the help she needed, Leah has managed to lift herself up. Today she works as a graphic designer and tries to be a good role model for her children.

“These days of the coronavirus crisis are extremely difficult, and a personalized focus on the aid needed can be the turning point for women like Alena and Leah and many others,” said Nicole. “They and their children can begin their journey of building a brighter future, and we want to be part of making it possible.”

ICEJ AID is committed to helping these vulnerable and often broken single mothers. However, their needs vary, and assistance ranges from \$1,500 to \$3,500 per mother—though a gift in any amount is a blessing. Each woman has her own story, and each has a God-given destiny. Please join us in our efforts to strengthen Israeli families and help them find a brighter future. Your donation makes a significant impact on the lives of those who need it most. 🌍

GIVE TODAY AT: WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG/AID



A WORLD AT THE CROSSROADS

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OUT OF ZION WITH SUSAN MICHAEL



IT DOESN'T GET MORE EXCITING THAN THIS!

BY DR. SUSAN MICHAEL

Have you ever tried to put yourself in the disciples' shoes after Jesus' death and burial? Over three years spent with Jesus—and all their hopes and dreams seemed to have come to nothing. I can't imagine their shock and depression. They must have thought it was all over.

Everything changed on Sunday morning, which was the Feast of Firstfruits—always occurring on the day after the first Shabbat

following Passover. Jesus was raised from the dead as the firstfruits of the resurrection, according to the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15. What an exciting turn of events!

Jesus then spent 40 days with the disciples teaching them about the kingdom of God. In His final conversation with them, He told the disciples they were to wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in which they would be empowered for the ministry He was calling them to.

But the disciples had one last, burning question on their hearts: Was Jesus now going to restore the kingdom to Israel? Obviously, Jesus had built this expectation in His followers because when He answered, He

did not correct them—He simply said the timing was in God's hands. Instead, now was the time to empower the early church to witness for Him to the ends of the earth. Clearly, Israel had a role, but it was for a future time.

The disciples then remained in Jerusalem as He had instructed them. When the Feast of Shavuot arrived—the celebration of the harvest, called Pentecost in Greek—the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the early church, empowering them to begin gathering a harvest of souls that would quickly expand around the world.

Jesus had died on the very day the lambs were being slaughtered in the temple for Passover. He was resurrected on the Feast of Firstfruits, and the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the church on the harvest festival of Shavuot.

It really doesn't get more exciting than this!

Join me for the *Out of Zion* podcast episode, "It Doesn't Get More Exciting Than This." Susan's Walk Thru the New Testament is the final quarter of her year-long Walk Thru the Bible series. Get started right away by downloading our Bible reading plan! Invite your friends and family to join us! 🌍

Dr. Susan Michael is USA Director of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem and host of the Out of Zion podcast.

WWW.OUTOFZIONSHOW.COM

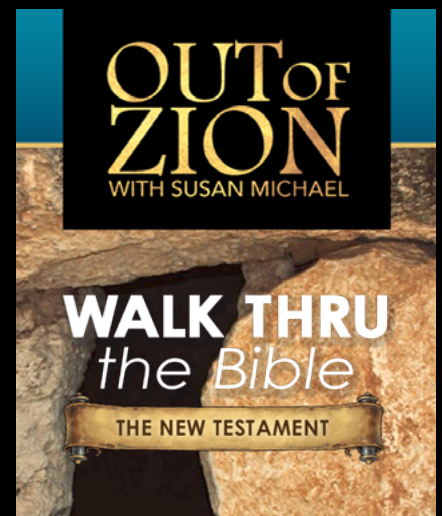
Join Susan on a Walk through the New Testament

Susan's Walk Thru the New Testament is the final quarter of her year-long *Walk Thru the Bible* series.

Together in this 11-week journey through the New Testament, we'll uncover the grand story behind the stories that will bring your Bible to life!

- Explore the background and history of the New Testament
- Unpack key events in Jesus' life and get to know Him for who He was and not just what He said or did
- Study the apostles and their writings
- Make sense of John's final vision of the return of Jesus
- And more!

Don't let the craziness of life keep you from engaging with God's Word. Download the free New Testament reading plan so you can get started right away—then join Susan each week for the *Out of Zion* podcast.



SIGN UP TODAY FOR YOUR FREE NEW TESTAMENT READING PLAN:

WWW.ICEJUSA.ORG/READING-PLAN

ENCOUNTER THE BIBLE IN 3D THIS YEAR

Are You Excited about Your Bible?

How many of us can say along with the psalmist, “I love your commandments, more than gold” (Psalm 119:127)? That is quite a statement of how valuable and precious is the Word of God. Yet many people do not read the Scriptures because they find the Bible hard to understand.

Others are being told the Bible is not true and contains contradictions and errors. Their minds have been filled with doubt, just as the serpent filled Eve’s mind with doubt in the garden of Eden when he questioned, “Did God really say?” The doubt planted in Eve’s mind grew into disbelief and disobedience, the consequence of which was sin and much suffering.

These lies are designed to mislead and rob Christians of knowing the power and strength they will gain from spending time in the Word. The Bible is not only filled with insights for living a full and meaningful life, but it is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and time spent reading it is time spent in fellowship with God through the Holy Spirit. It is a book that not only tells a fascinating story but can change lives.

Join Susan each week on the *Out of Zion* podcast for another insightful episode. To dig in further, check out these series available now—and transform your life in 2022, one page at a time!



The 3D Bible Series

Journey to the world of the Bible—where it comes alive and can change your life. We live in an increasingly secular society that questions everything about the Christian faith. Learn how to find the answers you are looking for about the authenticity of the Bible, the amazing story it tells, and what it means for you. Subtitles are now available in Spanish and Portuguese! Eight episodes, total run time: 3:24:39.

<http://icejusa.org/3DBible>



The 3D Jesus Series

Join Susan Michael for the 3D Jesus Series, and take a journey to the first-century world of Jesus, where His life and ministry come alive. God was at work for thousands of years setting the stage for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus. Hear the story, visualize the events, and understand the purpose of Jesus’ mission and why He must return. Spanish and Portuguese subtitles are coming soon. Seven episodes, total run time: 3:43:22.

<http://icejusa.org/3DJesus>



The Going Deeper Series

Join Susan Michael for this series of Going Deeper interviews designed to complement the content from our Walk Thru the Bible weekly podcast and reading schedule. Susan and leading experts from around the world discuss topics relevant for today. From archaeological evidence for biblical events to the modern Jewish perspective of their meaning, join Susan for these lively, informative discussions. Nine episodes, total run time: 4:46:58.

<http://icejusa.org/GoingDeeper>

NEW YEAR GIFT IDEAS

2021/2022 CALENDAR

This 16-month calendar (September 2021–December 2022) has stunning photos of Israel. It includes American and Jewish holidays, as well as the Priestly Blessing and the Hear O' Israel (*Shema*) blessing.

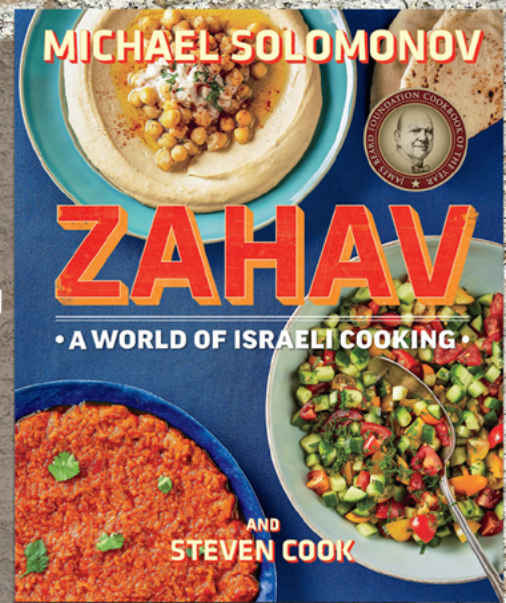
Calendar
\$15.00*



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* Shipping is
not included



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The Lord has placed before us a great calling to bless His chosen and beloved people and we simply cannot do it without your help. Your donation will make a measurable difference for God's purposes here in Jerusalem and beyond. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem – USA, Inc. is classified by the I.R.S. as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Corporate and personal contributions to the ICEJ's US Branch, to the extent allowed by law, are fully tax-deductible.



FEAST of TABERNACLES

PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM

The Land of Promise

9-16 OCTOBER 2022

Join us this year in Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. We will keep you updated with all of the plans!

www.icejusa.org/feast-tabernacles