



### Letter from the Director, ICEJ UK – David Elms

**2011** is proving to be a year of incredible upheaval in the Middle East. For once it is not Israel that is making the headline news, but we know that this is but a brief hiatus. With countries such as Egypt, Libya and Syria on the brink of radical change, much of the Western press have an almost naïve belief that regime change will bring peace and democracy to that troubled region.

Those who receive our e-mail news from Jerusalem are well informed that even greater sinister forces such as the Muslim Brotherhood are lurking in the background seeking opportunities for political power. These forces want nothing from Israel other than its destruction. Our dear friend and Feast orator, Lance Lambert, has released a prophetic word warning of how the upheaval is an enormous gain for militant Islam and is a challenge to even greater intercession. Details available at [www.lancelambert.org](http://www.lancelambert.org).

When the internal crises in these nations abate, Israel will find itself in the midst of even greater rising tides of hatred. This is where you, our supporters, will be needed more than ever. The International Director in Jerusalem has called for a special global Isaiah 62 Prayer campaign. The UK Board ask you to set some time aside each month to join others around the world in prayer and petition for both Israel and the ministry of ICEJ.

Many of you joined with us for our UK Conferences at Billinge and Southampton when we considered "Israel: A Light to the Nations". It appears as anything but a light at this point in time but the Lord promises us that darkness will not prevail. The ministry sessions from the

conference can be viewed online at [www.billingefamilychurch.org](http://www.billingefamilychurch.org) (go to Media / ICEJ 2011). CD order form is enclosed.

**Israel - A Light to the Nations** is the theme for this year's Feast of Tabernacles Celebration in Jerusalem. There is still time for you to join our group led by Pastor Mike Kerry and Wendy Hogarth. See the advertisement on page four.

On Friday evening, 10<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June, speakers from the ICEJ UK will be sharing at a conference in Wolverhampton entitled "Has God Finished with Israel?." This conference is organized by the Victory Life Ministries. For contact details, see advertisement on page four.

*"And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away."*

1 Peter 5:4.

Blessings and Shalom,

David Elms,

UK Director of ICEJ.



A taste of the UK Conference



The ICEJ UK exists to comfort Israel, raise Christian support, teach truth and confront hatred.

We seek to support the ministry of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem.

The ICEJ was established in 1980 and represents millions of Christians from over 100 countries who share a love and concern for the Jewish people.

*"Comfort, oh comfort, My people," says your God.*  
(Isaiah 40 v 1)

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## A PROBLEM PREGNANCY

by David Parsons

This coming July 9th, South Sudan is slated to declare its independence and be welcomed into the family of nations. This new country is being born out of decades of conflict and suffering, as the Christians and animists of the south have been brutalized by the Islamist regime in Khartoum. Roughly two million south Sudanese have died as a result of war, famine and disease, while another four million were displaced.

Many of these refugees are now streaming back home, some with newly acquired skills and a keen desire to help build their new nation. There are still hurdles to overcome, as the South Sudanese Authority must negotiate with its former masters over their common border and a sharing of the land's rich oil resources.

But South Sudan's recent referendum on independence was an inspiring exercise in democracy and a ringing endorsement of freedom, as nearly 100% of the populace voted for seceding from the north. Its impact on nearby countries has been widely overlooked, as just a few months later peoples throughout the Middle East erupted in an unprecedented wave of longing for liberty from tyrants and for political reforms.

Yet what a disappointing moment it will undoubtedly be for Palestinians to witness the poor and battered people of South Sudan celebrating their independence and especially their release from the cruel hand of dictator Omar al-Bashir, now a fugitive war criminal. To hear the Palestinians tell it, they too have suffered from a ruthless oppressor called the "Israeli occupation" and are no less deserving of nationhood.

Actually, there have been many peoples celebrating their newfound sovereignty ever since the PLO was formed and laid claim to statehood in 1964. No less than 73 nations have been admitted as new members of the United Nations since the 1967 Six Day War. Some were freed from Soviet dominance, others emerged from colonial rule by Western powers, while still others arose out of bitter ethnic conflicts and civil wars. Yet all are now full-fledged members of the fraternity of nations.

So why, it must be asked, are the Palestinians still on the outside looking in? Is history simply passing them by? The answer is that the effort to birth a Palestinian state has always been a problem pregnancy for the entire world. The state of Palestine was still-born in the wake of the 1947 Partition Plan, and again with the PLO's Algiers declaration of 1988. Even with broad international backing and Israel's most accommodating offers, it failed to gestate again at Camp David in 2000 and at the end of the Annapolis process in late 2008.

And the reason for this is that the Palestinian nationalist movement has always been motivated more by a need to destroy the Zionist enterprise, rather than focusing on building a state of its own. The international community has been trying to hand the Palestinians a state for decades, but they have refused if it means the conflict is over and Israel remains intact.

Palestinian Authority leaders Mahmoud Abbas and Salaam Fayyad contend they have now corrected course and concentrated on developing the institutions of modern statehood in time for a September coming-out party at the UN. Yet at the same time, they have promoted a global campaign to delegitimize Israel, encouraging boycotts and sanctions against her abroad while feeding anti-Israel incitement at home.

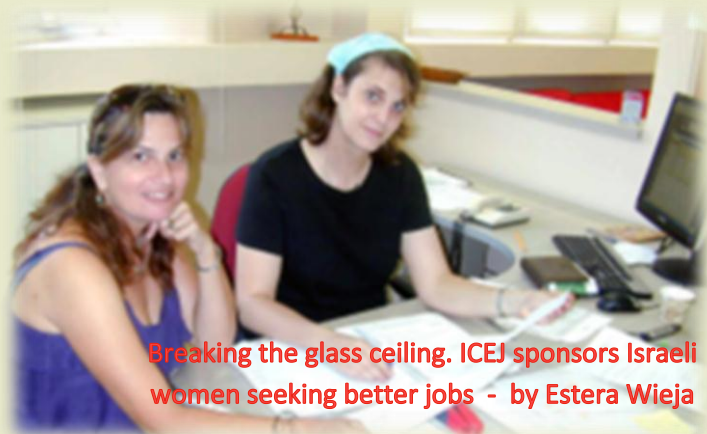
Both PA leaders also have refused to consider any compromise on the right of return, which continues to be a thinly-veiled formula for Israel's destruction. Finally, Abbas has also decided to re-engage with Hamas for the sake of national unity, a path that inevitably leads away from statehood.

Nevertheless, much of the international community is prepared to ignore these self-defeating actions and press ahead towards Palestinian statehood, despite the heightened risks for Israel of a region in rudder-less turmoil. There is even increased talk among European officials of an imposed solution. So we can only expect more wrenching labour pains ahead in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which are looking ever more like the Bible's depictions of the birth pangs of the Messiah.

*Parsons is media director for the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem; [www.icej.org/](http://www.icej.org/)*

*This article first appeared in the May 2011 issue of The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition; [www.jpost.com/ce](http://www.jpost.com/ce)*

**CAPTION:** Flags of member states flying outside UN headquarters in New York (Istock).



**Breaking the glass ceiling. ICEJ sponsors Israeli women seeking better jobs - by Estera Wieja**

Over the past twenty years, women in Israeli society have managed to expand their rights and opportunities, as many new doors have opened for them. However, these advances have not come easily and today many Israeli women still enter the work force unprepared for its rigorous demands. Some female workers find themselves victims of the competitive spirit among male-dominated businesses and the pressures of economic fluctuations. Single mothers who have never worked before do not always know where to start. Often, they lack school diplomas or other documentation to attest to their skills.

To help correct this inequity in Israeli society, the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem recently began sponsoring a program run by the Mahut Center, a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving the economic status of low-income and marginalised women in the Israeli job market. The program's aim is to help these women achieve their potential and secure their rights to a respectable livelihood free of discrimination and harm. The program, called "Advancing Employment for Women over 40", grants scholarships to women who desperately need training to qualify for better-paying jobs.

This initiative not only allows Israeli women to acquire educational and work skills that will more fully utilize their talents, but also improves the economic well-being of their families. The Mahut Center program includes facets that focus on education, vocational training, job placement services, and long-term personal support.

Many of the women supported by the Center have either lost their jobs or their family support (for example, by losing their husband), and are left with practically no experience and no education. Mahut helps them acquire the necessary education or certificates to get the job they both want and need.

Such was the case of Mali, a single mother. When her bakery shop was closed down, she was not able to find work in her field as she had no certificate to prove her culinary skills. Thanks to Mahut Center and the support from ICEJ, Mali was able to complete a cooking course and start back working in her chosen field. Today, she is the head chef of a kitchen at a bustling child day-care facility and very happy with it.

Thanks to Christian support from around the world, Mahut Center is able to provide the necessary tools for women so that they can secure a job and advance their careers. In 2010, a total of 31 women from the Advancing Employment program applied for scholarships. The ICEJ is pleased to partner with Mahut Center, in encouraging women to take an active and innovative approach in order to reach economic independence.

*If you are interested in supporting this and other ICEJ AID projects in Israel, please make your donation today to ICEJ AID to ICEJ UK at [www.icejuk.org](http://www.icejuk.org) or by post.*

## Please Support the work of the ICEJ

**Thank you!**  
**for your gift to help the work of the**  
**International Christian Embassy Jerusalem**

Donations to the work can be made online via the ICEJ UK at [www.icejuk.org](http://www.icejuk.org) where you can also obtain bank details for standing orders and direct payments. Alternatively, please complete this tear-off slip and place with gift in the envelope provided.

Enclosed is my donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ to support the work of ICEJ

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me ICEJ UK's periodic prayer/news emails

# Feast of Tabernacles 2011



## Come to the Feast – Official ICEJ UK Tour!

Now is the time to make plans to join us for the  
Feast of Tabernacles  
in Jerusalem 13 - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011

### “Israel – A Light to the Nations

Enjoy a wonderful visit to the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem  
on the official ICEJ trip with Mike Kerry and Wendy Hogarth  
travelling 12 – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Stay in the 5-star Ramada Hotel within easy walking distance of the  
Convention Centre where most Feast events take place.

Book now to secure your place. Direct flights from London Luton.

Highlights of the Feast will include the Opening Ceremonies and the Parade of Nations,  
Desert Celebration at Ein Gedi Spa, Communion Services, Israeli Night  
plus participation in the annual Jerusalem March.

£793 for seven nights half-board and airport transfers;  
additional costs for Easyjet flights and Feast Registration fee (US\$435).

Full details and brochure obtainable from Mike on 01695 624572 or 07843 282303  
or Wendy at the UK Branch at [info@icejuk.org](mailto:info@icejuk.org) or tel. 01923 445983.

### *Helen Shapiro Gospel Outreach*

**Saturday 7.30 pm 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2011**

Kingsway Christian Centre,  
Church Road, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 5NA

**By Ticket only: £5.00**

All proceeds to go to ICEJ AID

Enquiries to: Tel 0151 920 5111

Email: [gordon2602@gmail.com](mailto:gordon2602@gmail.com)

Facilities for the disabled including loop system

Hosted by Kingsway Christian Centre,  
in conjunction with the  
International Christian Embassy Jerusalem UK.

ICEJ UK are pleased to announce a conference in  
partnership with VICTORY LIFE MINISTRIES

### “Has God finished with Israel?”

Friday evening 10<sup>th</sup> June • 6pm – 9pm

All day Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2011 • 10am – 8pm

Victory Life Ministries  
St Chads Parish  
Connaught Road  
Bilston, Wolverhampton, WV14 6LY.

Speakers include:

Dr David Elms: ICEJ UK National Director

Len Grates: ICEJ UK

Pastor Mike Kerry: ICEJ UK

**Lunch on Saturday will be provided**

**There is no charge for the conference  
but an offering will be taken**

Please register with Pastor James Muwendo  
07772301905 • [sterlingmuwendo@yahoo.com](mailto:sterlingmuwendo@yahoo.com)