Israel’s Great Antagonist
Understanding Egypt, Israel and the unrest in Cairo

Rev. Malcolm Hedding

The recent political turmoil in Egypt has led to serious concerns that the 1979 peace treaty with Israel might soon be nullified by a new leadership in Cairo. In this regards, it is sobering to recall that Egypt, but for brief moments in history, has always been a great antagonist of the people of Israel.

This saga really began when Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, was wrongly accused and left to rot in an Egyptian jail. If it were not for God’s supernatural deliverance, he would have perished there! His rise to power was phenomenal as was his leadership skills. He not only saved Egypt from starvation but he delivered his family and the known world as well, and thereby guaranteed the existence of the Jewish people and the Messianic line of descent. If it were not for God’s supernatural deliverance, Israel would have perished!

As time went by a Pharaoh arose “who knew not Joseph” and literally enslaved the Jewish people, murdered their babies, and threatened the nation with extinction. God went before them and provided a deliverer in the person of Moses. He brought Israel out of Egypt with great signs and wonders. If it were not for God’s supernatural deliverance, Israel would have perished!

When the children of Israel got to the Red Sea, the Egyptians had them cornered. There was nowhere to go and so, once again, in response to Moses’ outstretched arm, the sea miraculously parted and Israel escaped unharmed on dry land. If it were not for God’s supernatural deliverance, Israel would have perished at the hands of the Egyptians!

Throughout history, up until the present day, Egypt has resolutely set itself against the purpose of God concerning the Jews and has tried, time and time again, to destroy them. In 1948, Egyptian forces advanced to within 25 miles of Tel Aviv in an attempt to “drive the Jews into the Sea”. In the Six Day War of June 1967, Gamel Abdul Nasser of Egypt had overwhelming military strength and backing by the Soviet Union when he sought once more to destroy Israel and the Jewish people. Yet again, a miracle of God happened and Nasser’s army and his Arab allies were not just defeated but were humiliated by the IDF. Israel’s victory was breathtaking and stunning. Yet actually, if it were not for God’s supernatural deliverance, Israel would have perished!

The same was true in October 1973 when, emboldened again by Russia, Egypt attacked Israel on the holiest day of the Hebrew calendar – Yom Kippur or the great Day of Atonement. The surprise factor was complete and devastating. Even some of Golda Meir’s top generals and closest advisors thought that the “game was over”. But they were wrong. Israel snatched victory from the jaws of defeat and survived. If it were not for God’s supernatural deliverance, Israel would have perished!

>> CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE
The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem was founded in 1980 as an act of comfort and solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people in their claim to Jerusalem.

Today, the Christian Embassy stands at the forefront of a growing mainstream movement of Christians worldwide who share a love and concern for Israel and an understanding of the biblical significance of the modern ingathering of Jews to the land of their forefathers.

From our headquarters in Jerusalem and through our branches and representatives in over 80 nations, we seek to challenge the Church to take up its scriptural responsibilities towards the Jewish people, to remind Israel of the wonderful promises made to her in the Bible, and to be a source of practical assistance to all the people of the Land of Israel.

The ICEJ is a non-denominational faith ministry, supported by the voluntary contributions of our members and friends across the globe. We invite you to join with us as we minister to Israel and the Jewish people worldwide by using the enclosed response slip to make your donation to the ongoing work and witness of the ICEJ.

Dear Friends,

The New Year started with a bang in that no one really foresaw the upheavals taking place in Egypt. It appears the political turmoil erupted spontaneously as thousands took to the streets in Cairo demanding democracy and freedoms long withheld from them. There is, of course, an element of truth in their aspirations. But as time goes on, it is becoming clear that many of the protests were infiltrated and orchestrated by groups living in the shadows, like the Muslim Brotherhood.

They are too smart to seize power immediately, lest they be saddled with the burdens of governing. Instead, they will resort to the Hizbullah model in Lebanon where the radical Islamists have gained legitimacy as a partner in a democratically-elected coalition government, but are progressively usurping power. This will be the way it will probably happen. The consequences for Israel will be serious and highly dangerous. The “elder” Muslim Brotherhood directly birthed Hamas and helped inspire al-Qaeda, Hizbullah and the Iranian Revolution. The common goal in their various charters is a new Islamic Caliphate extending out from the Middle East in all directions until the world is subdued for Allah. Israel, in their minds, should not and will not exist. She is the most immediate obstacle to this new Islamic empire and must be removed by jihad.

Israel will soon be facing determined enemies on all fronts with sophisticated weaponry and even a nuclear bomb! The West is presently weak, compromised by its need for oil, and given more to appeasement than to resolve. To avoid taking real action, its politicians are trying to “soften” the image of groups like the Muslim Brotherhood. We live in very dangerous times!

All this is to say that our confidence is in the God of the Bible. His Word will not fail, but Christians must now take seriously the need to pray for Israel and stand beside her. Our hour has come and I fear that it will also be an hour of testing! Will we go the distance? We must hold to the vision of a preserved, blessed, redeemed and peaceful Jewish Jerusalem. God’s promises will not fail.

It is comforting to know, at a time like this, that the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem has a worldwide family that we can depend upon. We need you now to stand with us but this means, more important still, to stand with Israel. Let us all be faithful!

In Jesus,

Rev. Malcolm Hedding
ICEJ Executive Director

Word From Jerusalem

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As we moved into 2011, the world and in particular Israel were facing some new and severe challenges. Thus we decided to start the year with a special season of prayer and fasting for Israel and our ministry in the Land. The urgency of the hour has since been borne out by the recent political upheaval in Egypt, which could turn that nation into a dangerous adversary of Israel once again.

Israel also faces an unprecedented tide of international hostility. An increasing number of mostly Latin American countries are setting a precedent in officially recognising a Palestinian state within the pre-1967 armistice lines, while at the same time the campaign to delegitimise Israel is gathering momentum. Above all looms the nuclear threat of Iran and a tense relationship with the current US administration.

Furthermore, the moral climate in Israel is troubling, and Israel’s leadership is shaken by corruption and other scandals.

Many more concerns could be added, including Israel’s chronic water shortage and the daily challenges facing our own ongoing ministry here in Jerusalem. But while the world is moving into more difficult times, we are a people of hope. This motivates our prayers. God promises us through the Prophet Daniel: “…but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits”.

Note the context of that promise! Daniel sees the climax of the end times with the Anti-Christ on the rise. But Daniel doesn’t see a defeated people of God – in the midst of it all he declares “those who know their God will carry out great exploits”. It is crucial, therefore, for us to know our God and to trust that He will continue to use us to carry out great exploits.

Therefore let us all draw closer to God! We decided to start the year with a day of fasting and prayer on every Wednesday in January, with three staff prayer meetings each day. On the last Wednesday, we concluded our special season of prayer with an all-night prayer vigil, as part of a global 24-hour prayer watch. Our national directors around the world joined us in this special time of prayer and fasting.

We now want to challenge our global constituency to continue this vigil with a special day of prayer and fasting for Israel on the fourth Wednesday of every month for the rest of this year, beginning during the week of Purim. So our next day of global prayer will be on Wednesday, 23 March 2011. Please join us in earnest intercession at that time by contacting your local ICEJ national branch.

Dr. Jürgen Bühler serves as ICEJ International Director and lives with his family in Jerusalem.
It’s early on a Thursday morning, and the parking lot below a popular shopping mall in Rishon LeZion is already filled with people. A group is setting up tables. A young man is busy turning a parking spot into a make-shift barber shop. Meanwhile, dozens of elderly Israelis stand patiently in what seems to be a ‘waiting area’. Most have already been here for a couple hours, just like every other Thursday.

At the end of every Israeli work week, this parking lot is transformed into an aid center for the disadvantaged. Hundreds come to ‘shop’ for food and clothing, where a full bag containing basic food items worth $45 is offered for only $1.50 and an item of clothing for mere pennies. In recent years, ICEJ AID has partnered with the respected nationwide charity Pitchon Lev to help sponsor food banks and distribute goods at “Caring Heart” street markets like this one in Rishon LeZion.

In February, a tour group from the ICEJ-Hong Kong branch joined ICEJ staff in volunteering at the unique parking lot market; managing the food bank, while Israeli volunteers coordinated an aid center, which also offered free haircuts and legal advice. The Asian visitors rolled up their sleeves and started filling bags with potatoes, carrots, lettuce and other vegetables. Another group carried heavy baskets with frozen and canned goods.

“We are happy that in this way we can come closer to the people of Israel”, said Colin Chow, director of ICEJ-Hong Kong.

On previous tours, his groups had visited mainly historical sites in Israel. This year, they walked in the footsteps on Jesus both literally and figuratively, as they stretched out a helping hand towards those in need. Members of the group admitted that such experiences elevated their love for Israel to a new level.

“These people were so grateful that we were there... Grateful not that we worked, but that we came!” said one visitor from Hong Kong.

The “shoppers” at the unique market have all been approved by the social welfare department to take part in the program.

Caring Hearts from Hong Kong
Pilgrims distribute food at a charity street-market in Rishon LeZion

By Estera Wieja
Passover is a special holiday for Jewish families in Israel, and many begin preparing for this joyous biblical festival well in advance. Yet it can also be a difficult season for those lacking the means to celebrate this revered occasion properly.

So ICEJ AID is already working to be in a position to help hundreds of poor families when the Pessach holiday arrives this April, when we hope to provide traditional Passover baskets to impoverished families, needy new immigrants, single-parent homes, the elderly and especially Holocaust survivors.

Over recent years, ICEJ AID has been sponsoring the rental costs of two vans dedicated to Pitchon Lev’s food distribution efforts. This enables them to collect food items donated by factories, grocery chains, corporate farms and individuals on a daily basis. The monthly expense for each van is $1700. Without the vehicles, Pitchon Lev could not continue their humanitarian mission. The vans also carry a clear message on their sides: “Israel you are not alone” accompanied by the logo of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

Doron Klein, director of partnerships for Pitchon Lev, eagerly welcomed the group of volunteers from Hong Kong, insisting: “Thanks to you who stand with Israel, we know for a fact that we are not alone”. 😊

Ester Wieja serves as a staff writer for the ICEJ media team in Jerusalem and a contributor to The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition.

Regular welfare payments barely cover their rent and basic needs. For many, the aid from Pitchon Lev is all that keeps them from going hungry. A total of 5,000 families receive assistance through the program, while 700 more are on the waiting list.

Volunteers distribute the food, help with clothing and baby needs, or just lend a listening ear. One local volunteer, Slava, comes to Rishon LeZion every Thursday morning to give haircuts.

“I have a regular job, but I do this free of charge. If there’s nothing material I can give to these people, I want to serve them at least in this way”, Slava explained as the line for haircuts grew longer with every hour.

As the time-honoured Passover Seder meal approaches, latest figures show that more than one-third of Israelis are living below the poverty line. Local charities will need to provide basic food staples to nearly 300,000 families. Thus we look to you, our friends and supporters, to help us meet the needs of as many Jewish families as we can this holiday season.

Doron Klein, director of partnerships for Pitchon Lev, eagerly welcomed the group of volunteers from Hong Kong, insisting: “Thanks to you who stand with Israel, we know for a fact that we are not alone”.

Estera Wieja serves as a staff writer for the ICEJ media team in Jerusalem and a contributor to The Jerusalem Post Christian Edition.

Support the ICEJ Passover Appeal Online: Learn more at: www.icej.org

Aid For Passover

2011 ICEJ PASSOVER APPEAL

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Don’t miss this optimal time for Christians to comfort the poorest sectors of Israeli society, as we help them celebrate freedom with dignity this year. Please consider making a generous donation today!

Support the ICEJ Passover Appeal Online: Learn more at: www.icej.org
In late December, I had the privilege to accompany a group of fourteen French Jews departing from Marseilles on their flight to a new life in Israel. The Christian Embassy was sponsoring their journey home, as well as a “Red Carpet” Aliyah Fair upon their arrival, where they would join with more than 300 other new immigrants from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Greece and Turkey.

A local Jewish Agency representative met us at the airport to introduce me to the group before departure. They included three young adults in their twenties, a middle-aged woman and ten retirees, all from cities in southern France.

The journey started with moving farewells with friends and relatives staying behind. Once on the plane, I had reserved an aisle seat with El Al so I could move about and speak further with the group members. More than half were seated right behind me, which allowed me to learn more about each one and give them more information about the ICEJ.

Lea, the youngest olim (newcomer) at 19, was travelling with her boyfriend who was studying in a Jerusalem yeshiva.

Meanwhile, Jonathan, a 22-year old student in management, did not foresee any future for himself in France. He had decided to join his sister in Jerusalem, where he will enrol in an ulpan (Hebrew language class). He will then continue his university studies and expects to do six months of military service.

Iona, 24, had a degree in personnel management and hoped she could find a job, although she did not expect it to match her qualifications. But she was first going to learn Hebrew in Jerusalem, where she had friends.

Miriam, a 47-year old divorcée, was meeting up with her fiancé and they plan to set up a business together in Haifa.

The rest of the group, elderly singles or couples, had been dreaming of making aliyah and joining family members for a long time, but had to first wait to be free from other obligations. Germaine, 82, and her daughter Nicole were leaving behind a long trail of hardships. They had lived most of their lives in Metz, near the German border, before moving to the south of France. Germaine told me that she was the oldest of four children and had to take care of her three brothers after her mother became very sick.
In July 1942, at age 14, she and her father were arrested and taken to the notorious Paris stadium where Jews were rounded up before being deported. They were able to escape two days later and took refuge in Tours, where the rest of the family joined them. Yet, three months later they were caught again and taken to the Drancy camp. There, father and daughter were separated, never to see each other again. The mother and younger children were fortunately hidden in a hospital by nuns, who disguised them as sick, contagious patients.

The father was eventually taken to Auschwitz, where he died. Every day, 1,000 prisoners were transported to the infamous death camp. Germaine was put on a train twice, but each time she happened to be passenger 1,001 and was left behind, escaping death yet again.

At age 18, she married a young man and Nicole was her first-born. They had waited until Nicole was retirement age before making aliyah together. They were now going to settle in Bnei Brak, where Nicole has a son who teaches in a yeshiva.

Even with such chilling life stories, the atmosphere on the plane was one of joy and expectation. We had left Marseilles with near freezing temperatures and landed in Tel Aviv to a balmy 27°C!

Michal Cohen, a very friendly and energetic Jewish Agency representative, greeted us at the aircraft. We boarded buses for the old terminal at Lod, where the immigration authorities interviewed each olim separately for their citizenship documents.

We boarded the bus again and drove back to the main Ben-Gurion terminal, where the newcomers identified their baggage for transport to Jerusalem. We were then driven to the Judean Guest House, a nice new hotel near the Jerusalem Biblical Zoo, where we joined other groups of immigrants for a meal and overnight stay.

I had prepared a gift from the ICEJ for each member of my group, including beautiful music from the Popov family.

After a relaxing morning, we were offered an afternoon visit to the Western Wall. There, each one received an historic photograph of the Wall taken in the 1870s. The ceremony ended with the singing of HaTikvah – Israel’s national anthem.

The Aliyah Fair was scheduled for the next day, giving me many more opportunities to talk to different immigrants from France; during meals, on the buses, in the hotel lobby, all the way through the fair and right up to the final ceremony. A young lady from Marseilles, puzzled when I told her that God had promised the land of Israel to the Jewish people, asked me to tell her more about it. She obviously didn’t have a clue!

On many occasions, I was asked about the Christian Embassy and our calling to comfort Israel. Every time, I could see their faces light up, so surprised to find out that someone cared about them! One older couple would congratulate me every time they saw me! Another dear couple said they had Evangelical friends in France, and assured they felt Jews and Christians were becoming closer.

On the last afternoon the Aliyah Fair concluded with a gala ceremony, when the new arrivals received their Israeli ID cards. The chairman of the Jewish Agency, Natan Sharansky, and his top assistant Eli Cohen were on hand to welcome the new citizens and also thank the Christian Embassy for co-sponsoring the event.

After a musical group performed a medley of Israeli folk songs, the immigrants were anxious to receive their citizenship papers. Eli Cohen pulled me up to the front table so I could help hand out the identity cards. It all went very fast, as the hall resounded with clapping as each name was called out. Cameras flashed and balloons floated up to the ceiling.

Finally, the entire crowd of some 400 new Israeli citizens gathered for a group photo before saying tearful goodbyes and boarding buses for their new homes across Israel. What an exciting ending and superb organisation! It was really amazing. The French olim did not have enough words to express their marvel and gratitude at the royal treatment they had received!

The ICEJ’s Aliyah Operations will be continuing to bring thousands of Jews home to Israel from across the globe in 2011. Please support this vital work by making a online donation at: www.icej.org
Education has always been an integral part of the work of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, especially in teaching Christians about the Jewish roots of their faith and our scriptural debt to Israel. There are other important audiences for our message as well, and this includes in particular reaching the younger generation in order to influence future attitudes towards Israel and reverse the increasing hostility towards the Jewish state and people.

In the Czech Republic, Christians have the opportunity to teach in public schools if they can offer professional lectures on a relevant topic that also achieves a public goal. Racism is one such theme that our educational system has been unable to effectively address. With our focus on combating anti-Semitism, the ICEJ is in a position to offer help in an area that would greatly benefit society as a whole.

As a result, in 2009 the Czech Ministry of Education approved a grant for the ICEJ-Czech branch to undertake a three-year project which focuses on teaching about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism in high schools all over the country. The funds originate with the European Union and are used to pay Christians who are properly trained to teach a new generation the lessons of the Holocaust and to be sensitive to any kind of prejudice against the Jewish people.

The project also features an unprecedented partnership between a Christian ministry and local Jewish organisations. This includes the Terezin Initiative, a national association of Holocaust survivors, and the Jewish Museum in Prague, which is the leading national institution on anti-Semitism and Holocaust education. Christians and Jews are now working hand-in-hand at a level never before experienced in our country. The ICEJ’s already existing partnership with Yad Vashem in Jerusalem was crucial to our being able to form this unique cooperative program.

The core of the project consists of lectures in schools which are conducted by our trained educators. They are all committed Christians who have completed extensive courses of study supervised by experts from the Jewish Museum and Yad Vashem. They are often accompanied by Holocaust survivors who tell their stories to the students.

During the first school year, from September 2009 to June 2010, we reached over 15,000 students. As the project gathers steam, the current rate involves about 100 lectures per month, reaching up to 3000 new students each month.

In order to manage such a large-scale project, the Czech branch has appointed four regional coordinators. They have become a major asset for the Czech Branch, since they significantly strengthen our capacity to work in all regions of the country, not only in schools but with churches and the general public as well. Our representatives are bringing together churches with their local government leaders and schools to build long-term relations and to hold public events.
Dear Friends,

After a long battle with illness our dear friend Ruth McDowell – wife of ICEJ New Zealand national director Derek McDowell – went to be with the Lord in January. Throughout this battle she never wavered in her faith and was always undergirded by blessed and real assurance in Jesus’ finished work on the Cross. Herein lays our joy in the midst of sorrow. The International Christian Embassy Jerusalem extends our love and support to Derek and his family at this difficult time.

Ruth’s name was certainly appropriate, as she lived out a life which mirrored her biblical name-sake, who joined herself to Naomi (Israel) and became a comfort and encouragement to her. She crossed a great divide and, having fully discovered the Jewish roots of her faith, became a source of blessing and joy to God’s ancient people. Not only did she grasp the significance of Israel’s modern-day restoration, but she translated this into acts of kindness and comfort as she, together with Derek, journeyed frequently to Jerusalem.

They found together in the work of the Christian Embassy a vehicle by which they could express their love for Zion. Ruth’s work was never finished in a sense, because she always had more to do for Israel and desired that all Christians could see and appreciate the debt that they owed the Jewish people. She pursued this calling with much zeal and love and will be greatly missed.

As we say farewell to Ruth, but for a short while, we should remember that profession of love spoken so tenderly yet firmly: “For wherever you go, I will go and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God.”

Rev. Malcolm Hedding
ICEJ Executive Director
Crossing the Bridge

It is past time that we stand up for the civil rights of ‘infidels’ under Islam

David Parsons

In the still lingering Israeli-Arab conflict, it is the Muslims who have refused to give up their historic sense of superiority over Jews, Christians and other non-Muslims. For centuries, ordinary Muslims have been taught they follow a superior faith and thus are inherently better than non-Muslims. Christians and Jews falsified their respective scriptures and thus belong to inferior faiths, rendering them dhimmis or second-class citizens. Muslims were free to lord it over these minorities to the point they felt it was their natural right, no matter how poor or ignorant they might be themselves. Much like in the Old South, this unjust system was defended on religious grounds, ordained by Allah no less.

The Zionist movement, however, challenged this belief system. The victory of a rag-tag Jewish militia over much larger Arab forces in 1948 was a theological shock to the Islamic world. How could the lowly Jews go from the nadir of the Holocaust to besting Arab armies on the battlefield in less than three years? Herein lays the root of Muslim attraction to Zionist conspiracy theories and even Holocaust denial. The evil Jews must have lied and manipulated their way to triumph and independence.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict will not be resolved until this Islamist superior mentality falls. The current slaughter of Christians across the Middle East is further evidence that Muslims refuse to surrender their historic sense of supremacy. It is past time that we all join arm-in-arm to cross that proverbial bridge and challenge Islam’s claim to dominance over infidels.

David Parsons serves as ICEJ Media Director & Contributing Christian Editor of the Jerusalem Post Christian Edition in which this article appeared

Learn more: www.jpost.com/ce
2011 Feast of Tabernacles

October 13-18

Event Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
Opening Ceremonies (7:30pm)
International Convention Center Jerusalem

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14TH
Morning Seminars (8:30am)
International Convention Center Jerusalem
Evening Celebration (6:30pm)
Outdoor event at the Ein Gedi Spa (Dead Sea)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15TH
Evening Celebration (7:30pm)
International Convention Center Jerusalem

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH
Morning Seminars (8:30am)
Evening Celebration (7:30pm)
International Convention Center Jerusalem

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17TH
Morning Seminars (8:30am)
Evening Celebration (7:30pm)
International Convention Center Jerusalem

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH
Morning Seminars (8:30am)
Grand Finale Evening Celebration (7:30pm)
International Convention Center Jerusalem

Please Note: Events, times, locations, and speakers are subject to change.

Special Guest

Angus Buchan
Malcolm Heding
David Pawson
Jürgen Bühler
Werner Oder
Allen Jackson

www.icej.org
Since 1979, Israel and Egypt have enjoyed a rare season of peace between the two nations. Ambassadors have been exchanged and even tourism has flourished between the two countries, albeit mainly because Israelis have gone to visit Egypt! This peace, although it initially shook the Arab world, broadened out in time to include Jordan. Sadly though, neither Arab nation is under democratic rule, thus leaving room for discontent and anger against military dictatorships which suppress opposition and basic freedoms. This in turn breeds radicals and these have mushroomed in the form of the Muslim Brotherhood and other groups opposed to the regime. The “street” has now been filled with rage. The fact that now-ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak kept the peace treaty with Israel was fully exploited, thereby turning him into a traitor for some and increasing public resentment against him.

Even though the recent opposition to Mubarak’s government was driven to some degree by a more secular segment of society, it did increasingly include the Muslim Brotherhood, whose leaders applauded Osama bin Laden when his al-Qaida cells attacked New York on 9/11. Sadly, all the reports coming out of Egypt confirm our worst fears and that is: Many demonstrators are filled with rage against Israel and agree with the goals and vision of the Muslim Brotherhood at least on this one question. Like Iran, they too desire the destruction of Israel.

It was just a matter of time before Mubarak stepped down, to be replaced by a new leadership that may be more democratic but undoubtedly will be more hostile to Israel. With the passing of time, we could see Cairo’s Embassy closed in Tel Aviv and Egypt returning to its age-old position of hostility and antagonism. This in turn means that Israel could truly be encircled by a state-sponsored terror network that will have the means to engulf it. If not for God’s supernatural deliverance, Israel will perish!

Though biblical scholars are pondering what all this upheaval means, it is true that the God we serve “watches over Israel day and night”. However, the Prophet Ezekiel envisages a day that has yet to arrive, when an alliance of Middle East nations will attempt, one last time, to destroy Israel and remove the Jews finally and forever from the land of promise (see Ezekiel 36-39). Egypt will be among them! In Ezekiel’s time, nation-states were not as well defined as we have them today and so, when the Prophet speaks of Ethiopia, Put and Libya he is talking about the whole region of North Africa. This region, in concert with many other nations, will swoop down upon Israel to destroy her. Israel will be overwhelmed and helpless! But the God of Israel will step in again and deliver her by amazing judgments that will leave the world astonished. If not for God’s supernatural deliverance, Israel will perish!

All this is to say that we must pray, yes as never before, because the picture rapidly developing in the Middle East today is approximating more and more to the picture painted by Ezekiel and indeed the other Hebrew Prophets, including Daniel and Zechariah. At the very least the stage is being set and those who know their God will see it and “do exploits”. But, it will take commitment and determination because following after the heart of God will always cost everything. Prayer, Paul reminds us, is hard work (Colossians 4:12).

However, this is not the end of the story. Egypt is destined for glory! She gave shelter to the Christ child and thus preserved his life (Matthew 2:13-15). She historically attacked the Messianic line but in the end gave protection to the Messiah. God has not forgotten this and thus, in the end, in the Messianic age, she will be united gloriously with Israel and Assyria and become a highway of blessing! (Isaiah 19:18-25) If it were not for the grace of God, we would all perish! (Rev. Malcolm Hedding serves as ICEJ Executive Director and travels extensively teaching about God’s purposes for Israel in these critical days.)