ISAIAH 62 PRAYER INITIATIVE
December 2018 Prayer Letter

Dear prayer partners,

The ICEJ is currently in the process of looking for new home and we need your prayers.

Since 1996, the ICEJ has been honoured to be the tenants of one of the most beautiful buildings in Jerusalem. For the past 20 years, our landlord has been the Republic of Ivory Coast and we have enjoyed a very good relationship with them over the years. Unfortunately, our long-term lease of the building has come to an end and the government in Abidjan, due to legal restrictions in Israel, was not able to extend the contract with us for another period.

Therefore, we are in the midst of searching for a new home for the ICEJ, a home which will allow us to continue – and eventually expand – our ministry here in Jerusalem. We know that God has already prepared the right building for us and has placed in the hearts of the ICEJ leadership in Jerusalem and the Board of Directors to eventually own our own property here in Jerusalem.

In recent weeks and months, various people reminded us of Isaiah 54:3-4:

*“Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities.”*

We ask you to believe that this new year will begin a new season for ICEJ. Please pray with us that God will allow us to enlarge ‘the place of our tent’ and that we can ‘strengthen our stakes’ here in Jerusalem. Pray with us to find the right location. Please pray for God’s provision to meet all the needs that will arise as we make this important move. Pray for a release of finances to make this an easy move.

*Deuternomy 28:6 – “You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.”*

Please also pray for God to bless the nation of Ivory Coast, for allowing us to use their beautiful property all these years.

Many blessings from Jerusalem and thank you for standing with us.



Jürgen Bühler

President

International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

PRAYER POINTSFor December 2018

*The next day of prayer and fasting in our Isaiah 62 Global Prayer Campaign will be on* ***Wednesday, 5 December 2018****. Please join us!*

*Thank you for standing with us in prayer for Israel throughout the year. In the month of November, we once again saw how our prayers made a difference in Israel. A couple of weeks ago, as Hamas fired hundreds of missiles into Israel, many miracles of God’s sovereign protection were evident, but one specific miracle stood out above the rest: A bus full of soldiers was the target of an anti tank missile fired from Gaza. Seconds before the missile hit the bus all the soldiers disembarked, and only one soldier and the bus driver were injured. This was a great miracle that not one person died and 50 plus soldiers got off the bus right before the missile exploded. We believe this was another answer to our prayers and a good reminder to take the time to seriously pray for Israel.*

1. **A Special ICEJ Prayer Request**

ICEJ Building for the FutureThe leadership of the ICEJ has some important decisions to make in the coming weeks concerning the future of the ministry, and particularly the building to serve as our global headquarters going forward. Our lease term is coming to an end and we are seeking a new home in Jerusalem. Please pray that the Lord would guide and control this whole decision-making process through His wisdom and peace. Pray that the right property would be made available to serve as the head offices of the International Christian Embassy in Jerusalem, even as we prepare ourselves for greater service to the Lord and to His people Israel. Also pray for the provision and direction of the Lord as we enter 2018, and for a realease of finances to make this an easy move.*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7) Also pray according to Revelation 3:7-8 and Deuteronomy 6:10-11; 28:6.*

1. **Prayer for Israel**

The Israeli Government & Prime Minister Netanyahu
Last month Israel experienced the largest ever one-day barrage of rockets and mortars fired from Gaza. In a 25-hour period, Hamas launched nearly 500 rockets and mortars at Israeli civilian areas in the western Negev. The massive barrage ended with an informal ceasefire which Egypt brokered between Israel and Hamas. But Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman quickly resigned in protest, contending the truce was a show of weakness. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, told the nation that other serious security operations were underway against Israel’s enemies that needed time to succeed and a war in Gaza would jeopardize that. The end result is that a major rocket war was avoided, but Netanyahu’s ruling coalition is now down to only 61 MKs, a razor-thin margin which will make it hard to govern and avoid early elections.

Please pray that the Lord would give strength and wisdom to Prime Minister Netanyahu and his government to meet all the challenges facing the nation of Israel. Pray that Hamas would no longer be able to beat Gaza’s plowshares into swords and that Israel will be successful in neutralizing the rocket threat from Gaza and any other threats Netanyahu was referencing – whether in Syria, Iran or elsewhere.

 “*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.” (1 Timothy 2:1-3)*

Israel’s BordersPlease continue to pray for quiet on all of Israel’s borders, not only its southern border with Gaza, but also for the Northern borders with Lebanon and Syria. Along the Lebanese border, members of Hezbollah – the radical, Iranian-backed terror militia – have heavily entrenched themselves among the civilian population. Hezbollah has an arsenal of over 150,000 rockets which can now reach any target in Israel. Please pray that they too would be disarmed and that peace would prevail with all of Israel’s neighboring countries. Also pray that Israel and other nations would be able to dislodge Iranian forces from inside Syria.

*“Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; But you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.” (Isaiah 60:18) Also pray according to Psalm 147:14.*

1. **Prayer for the Nations**

Definition of Marriage
One way the enemy attacks us is by attacking the family unit. This can manifest itself many ways, like the degradation and redefinition of our moral standards. Over the past months we have seen an example of this in how many countries like Romania and Taiwan have contemplated passing laws to redefine marriage. Please pray that the Lord would intervene in our various nations and cultures to infuse and establish His godly standards within the value systems of our countries.

*“Arise, O Lord, do not let man prevail; Let the nations be judged in Your sight. Put them in fear, O Lord, that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.” (Psalm 9:19-20)

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age…” (Titus 2:11-12)*The Perils of Unhindered Immigration
Due to globalization and increased mobility, many nations are struggling at present with large influxes of migrants and illegal immigrants, especially in Europe and North America. Often, these are people fleeing extreme poverty or areas plagued by war and violence. But also among them are those who would bring violence and crime to their new host nations. In addition, many Muslims are deliberately ‘colonizing’ western nations in order to spread Islam. Pray that the Lord would help nations deal with these issues in a peaceful, orderly and fair manner, and to sort between those who truly need refuge and help, and those coming to bring harm or impose Islamic beliefs on other nations.

*“When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples according to the number of the children of Israel.” (Deuteronomy 32:8)* *Also pray according to* *Numbers 9:14.*

1. **Prayer for the ICEJ**

Operation Lifeshield
The ICEJ works with an organization called Operation Lifeshield to provide portable bomb shelters for Israeli communities under repeated rocket barrages. These bomb shelters are given free of charge to communities who have no protection in the face of incoming rockets and mortars fired by terrorists in Gaza and elsewhere. Please pray for continued finances for this life-saving ICEJ project. Also pray that the Lord would give us wisdom and bring us into contact with those who are in need of bomb shelters the most.

*“As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.” (2 Samuel 22:31) Also, please pray according to Psalm 115:9-11.*Ethiopian Aliyah
The Jewish Agency recently informed the ICEJ leadership in Jerusalem that Aliyah flights for the next group of Ethiopian Jewish immigrants should begin in January of 2019. The generosity of our donors has allowed the ICEJ to commit to sponsoring flights for 1,000 Ethiopian Jews over the coming year. These are families that have been waiting for years, even decades, to come home to Zion and to be reunited with their relatives who are already here. Please pray for the final Israeli government approvals and decisions to allow these Ethiopian Jews to immigrate to Israel. Pray that the arrangements can be made quickly for their flights, and that all goes well as they reunite with their families and get settled in Israel.

*“I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not keep them back!’ Bring My sons from afar, and My daughters from the ends of the earth…”
(Isaiah 43:6)*

**Thank you for joining with us in prayer!**