



ISAIAH 62
PRAYER INITIATIVE

ICEJ Day of Prayer & Fasting Wednesday June 22nd, 2011

Prayer – the key to Revival

I am writing this prayer update from Manaus overlooking the Rio Negro in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil. Manaus, a city of 2 million inhabitants is today one of the most Christianized cities in the world: more than half the population are evangelical believers! On Sundays the public transport system needs to be run at 100% capacity as the streets are packed with people going to church.

The church of Pastor Rene Terra Nova, which is hosting us this weekend, started less than 20 years ago in a small garage in a suburb of Manaus. Today they have some 70,000 members. When the church decided to build their first large sanctuary, they began by building a prayer tower which, to this day, is used 24 hours a day to pray for their city, their country and the nation of Israel. Prayer is considered a primary key for today's revival in South America.

As we pray for Israel today, God will answer our prayers. Jesus Himself makes that promise to us. You might say: "I do not know how to pray." If this is your question then you are in noble company. Paul the mighty Apostle made precisely that confession when he wrote:

"For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words" (Rom 8:26)

Invite God to teach you through his Holy Spirit how to pray and allow the Spirit of God to pray through you.

Finally, as you set time aside today to pray for Israel be assured that thousands of Christians around the world are joining you. Just yesterday a Pastor from Bolivia assured me that his church of 5,000 members in Las Paz joins us each month in prayer. And many more do so around the world.

Israel today needs your prayers more than ever as do all of us who serve with the ministry of the ICEJ in Jerusalem. Thank you for standing with us and with Israel.

Yours in Christ,

Jürgen Bühler.
ICEJ International Director

1. Prayer for Israel

Israel's borders

"Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, for he strengthens the bars of your gates and blesses your people within you. He grants peace to your borders and satisfies you with the finest of wheat." (Psalm 147: 12-14)

ISAIAH 62
PRAYER INITIATIVE

Over the past few months Israel has experienced unprecedented civil unrest on its borders. Anti-Israel activists, backed by foreign regimes and Islamicist groups have stormed Israel's northern land border with Syria in an attempt to distract attention from the Syrian government's brutal oppression of its own people.

Meanwhile a second international 'aid' flotilla with ten ships is supposed to sail from Cyprus to the Gaza Strip in the coming days. Its aim, as was the aim of the Turkish convoy that set sail for Gaza last year, is to break through the Israeli naval blockade, to provoke clashes with the Israeli army and to catch the attention of the international media in order to further Israel's condemnation and delegitimization on the world stage. Central to this strategy is the willingness of the international media to report the false claim of a humanitarian aid crisis in Gaza – despite the fact that the Israeli blockade only prohibits the distribution of goods used in the manufacture of weapons, not food, relief or medical supplies.

- Pray for the Israeli defense forces to react in an appropriate way to the many threats against their borders; that they would have the wisdom to anticipate and defuse these situations without putting the lives of their soldiers or foreign activists in danger.
- Please pray that the plans of Israel's enemies will be defeated and that more and more countries will follow Turkey in refusing to participate in this pro-Hamas flotilla.
- Please pray also, that the international media will begin to refute the lies spread by Hamas about the humanitarian conditions in the Gaza Strip, and expose the motivation of the terrorist groups backing the flotilla which is to open up a coastal access route by which they can smuggle in heavy weaponry to be used against Israelis.

The push for Palestinian Statehood

One of the greatest strategic threats facing the nation of Israel today is the determination of the Palestinians to demand unilateral international recognition of a Palestinian State at the United Nations General Assembly in September. Although the US administration has indicated its intention to veto any such move within the Security Council, the Palestinians claim that currently 116 of the 192 UN member nations will support it.

Such a unilateral recognition by the UN would violate all international agreements between Israelis and Palestinians and many UN resolutions regarding the Middle East conflict. Furthermore, even a non-binding UN resolution backing Palestinian statehood will increase Israel's international isolation and make future negotiations with the Palestinians almost impossible.

- Please pray that more and more nations will refuse to support the unilateral Palestinian declaration of independence and demand that the Palestinian Authority renounce terror, jihadist indoctrination and their commitment to the destruction of the State of Israel.
- Please pray that the true motives of the Palestinians in pushing for a two-state solution will be exposed in the media: the desire to have a Palestinian state *in place* of the State of Israel rather than to build a peaceful nation *alongside* the nation of Israel.
- Please pray for the Israeli government to stand strong against pressure to accept compromises which would harm the country and its inhabitants.
- Finally please pray that the governments of Western nations and particularly the five permanent members of the UN Security Council: USA, China, Russia, France and the UK – that they would not be deceived into supporting a Palestinian State that would threaten the peace of the region and the security of Israel.

Durban III & the Delegitimization of Israel

The third UN summit against racism (Durban III) will take place in New York City on September 21th. The two previous conferences, in Durban, South Africa (2011) and in Geneva, Switzerland (2009), turned out to be anti Israel events with defamatory agitation against the Jewish state. The Geneva Summit opened with Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad addressing the audience to denounce Israel and deny the Holocaust.

Israel, the US and Canada already canceled their attendance of Durban III.

- Please pray that your country won't participate in this show trial against Israel.
- Please pray against the lies about Israel as a racist and apartheid state that began in the first Durban conference will not be repeated in the media this time or continue to spread across the world unchallenged.
- Please pray also that this meeting will really be dedicated to the problem of racism in all its forms, especially the oppression of Christians in Muslim lands

For more resources on the topic of the Durban Summit go to: www.icej.org/apartheid

2. Prayer for Wider the Middle East

Pray for Protection for Believers

Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the Muslim world, especially in Syria, Libya, Yemen, Iran and Saudi Arabia. In Iran and Saudi Arabia, there is a competition to prove to the rest of the Muslim world whether the Iranian (Shi'ite) interpretation of Islam or that of the Saudis (Wahabbi-Sunni) is the most 'correct' – and the easiest way to do this is by establishing their Islamic credentials through their persecution of Christians and their hostility to Jews.

ISAIAH 62
PRAYER INITIATIVE

Pray for Protection from Iran

Iran continues to inch forward in its nuclear program and also building its terrorist networks, across Latin America. These networks have forged alliances with drug cartels to sneak agents, weapons and money into the US. Because of the chaos in Mexico due to the massive drug fueled violence there the US/Mexico border is becoming less and less secure and the Iranians (among others) are taking advantage of this. It is not out of the question that Iranian agents might mount terrorist attacks against Christian targets in the US just as they hit the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires in 1994.

Pray for Turkey

Pray for the relationship between Turkey and Israel. Because of events in Syria and Lebanon and the massive influx of Syrian refugees into Turkey as a result of the brutal oppression of the Syrian people, the newly re-elected Islamic Party is reluctantly re-evaluating its relationship with Israel. Though they are hostile to Israel, they are also pragmatic enough to realize that Israel is a force of stability in the region. Pray that the government of Turkey would seek to forge a positive relationship with Israel and the West once again.

3. The Ministry of the ICEJ

Feast of Tabernacles 2011: 'Israel - a Light to the Nations'

Please pray for this upcoming Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem in October that it will be characterized by a strong presence of God and that God will draw a large number believers who are hungry for God and who want to stand with Israel.

ISAIAH 62
PRAYER INITIATIVE

Ongoing ICEJ Aid & Aliyah Projects

Please pray for our various Aid projects in the land will expand and reach more people with the love of Jesus Christ. Please pray also that our newly launched effort to bring some 8,700 Ethiopian Jews back home to Israel will enjoy the blessing of God and financial provision, that we can play our part in speeding up the completion of the great Ethiopian aliyah while the window of opportunity remains open.

The Ministry of the ICEJ worldwide

Please pray for the ICEJ branch and its leadership in your own country that God will bless and prosper their ministry and increase their work

