



COMFORT, COMFORT
MY PEOPLE



News from the ICEJ Social Assistance Program

September 2005



SUNSET ON GAZA

As Israel's painful disengagement unfolded in Gaza, ICEJ Social workers sat with evacuated families in Ashkelon representing Christians around the world to them during these difficult days. As the Jewish High Holidays approach, help us support the Children of the Pullout! [Read More](#)



Go to www.icej.org - To Make Your Secure Online Donation Today!
Mark the box: "GAZA PULLOUT APPEAL"

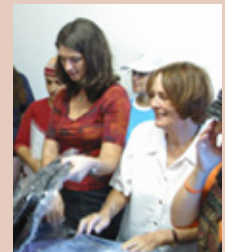
In this issue...

HOTEL ASHKELON

ICEJ reaches out to Gaza evacuees

The hotel had a dilapidated air about it. Families stood in the lobby surrounded by suitcases waiting for paper work to be filled in. There was a mixture of sadness, bewilderment and resignation. The buildup to the pullout had prevented many from traveling to work and they faced mounting debts. For some, it was not the first time that everything they owned had been sacrificed in Israel's elusive search for peace.

[Read More](#)



STABLE THERAPY

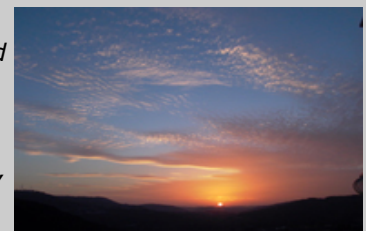
Christian Support for the Traumatized

The horses responded easily to their young riders' commands as they circled around and around the riding arena. The riders took time to glance over to family members and SAP staff, and beam with pride as they confidently handled their mounts. They were not indulging in a luxury hobby, but in essential therapy. [Read More](#)

Disengagement

SUNSET ON GAZA

Alongside Israelis across the nation, staff at the Christian Embassy watched the drama of the Gaza disengagement unfold with aching hearts for the people and communities we knew. Just a few short weeks earlier, SAP workers had sat in the Neve Dekalim home of a community representative with whom we worked in recent times to fund projects in Gush Katif. Then, Ayala had shared with us with her family's sorrow and anxiety over the days ahead.



During the disengagement, we visited her again - now sat at a picnic table in the grounds of the hostel serving as temporary accommodation for evacuees in Ashkelon. As the sun set, she tearfully told the anguish of leaving her home the previous night. Behind her bewildered families continued to disembark from buses into the twilight, their eyes straining at the uncertainty ahead.

ICEJ Social workers represent you to the Gaza evacuees during these difficult days. As the High Holidays approach, help us support the [Children of The Pullout](#).

ICEJ Appeal: Children of the Pullout

The [International Christian Embassy Jerusalem](#) is appealing to our friends and supporters worldwide to help us assist families evacuated from the 25 Jewish communities in Gaza and northern Samaria.

We are particularly concerned about how **over 2,500 school-age children** will adjust to their new surroundings this fall, and Israeli school and social workers are already approaching us for help.

Over coming months, the ICEJ will be collecting donations worldwide to assist the children of the disengagement, while exploring here in the land the best ways to meet their most urgent needs - material, educational, and psychological.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!



On the road with SAP



HOTEL ASHKELON ICEJ reaches out to Gaza evacuees

The hotel had a dilapidated air about it. Families stood in the lobby surrounded by suitcases - waiting for paper work to be filled in. There was a mixture of sadness, bewilderment and resignation.

A family the ICEJ had recently helped with basic needs crowded in to the three small rooms allocated to them. The parents in one room, the children divided into the other two. Around them were other families from Gush Katif that the Embassy had helped in the past. The buildup to the pullout had prevented most from traveling to work and now they were faced mounting debts to settle before having a chance to start again.

Each had between 6 and 8 children and each had lived in the Sinai settlement of Yamit before being forcibly evacuated some 25 years ago. They spent the next two decades rebuilding their shattered lives further north in Gaza. There was an unmistakable sense of déjà vu.

Amidst all the upheaval, the new school year was about to begin and families had to make decisions about where their children would be going to school and how they would be able to afford to send them.

Unlike many countries, Israel requires public school children to purchase their own books - sometimes up to 1000 shekels (\$230) per child - a crippling burden for larger families.



**ICEJ was swift to answer early calls for help, supplying school bags for evacuee children.
Support our Pullout Appeal and help us do more.**

Project Focus

STABLE THERAPY

Christian Support for the Traumatized

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- **A soldier who was beaten, tortured and left for dead** by his captors, was unable to provide for his family or function independently. Finally the doctors recommended horse riding and slowly he is overcoming his physical injuries and paralyzing emotional trauma.
- **A teenager on the brink of suicide** learnt to smile again after just a few short months of riding. As a young boy he had lost his father in a terrorist attack. The loss and its profound effect on the family brought him to a point of despair, and made him incapable of interacting with his peers. Now he is making progress and enjoying school.



These and hundreds of other rehabilitation stories explain why Anita Shkedi (left) and her highly skilled team continue their wonderful work in spite of the enormous workload and costs.

The physically and mentally challenged, special needs children and victims of terror benefit from the touch and movement of a horse. They are referred by doctors, psychologists and therapists. Even those unable to afford it, are taken on by Anita. The stables of the [Israel National Therapeutic Riding Association \(INTRA\)](#) are therefore dependent on sponsorship and a volunteer staff.

A Jewish Foundation that was begun in the name of a young Jewish girl murdered in a terror attack in Jerusalem, sponsors riding classes for an entire Israeli Arab family who were victims of a Palestinian terror attack. This is truly a place of reconciliation.

As a result of this therapy becoming widely recognized, specialized riding instructors are in urgent demand. The ICEJ partners with Anita on an annual basis to supply them.

Christians around the world have enabled the ICEJ to be part of many remarkable rehabilitation miracles. Thank you for your ongoing support!

SAP fulfills its calling to comfort God's people according to Isaiah 40:1 by contributing to the needs of every sector of Israeli society in every part of the country on behalf of Christians worldwide. **Email us at: sapdept@icej.org**

The ICEJ stands at the forefront of a growing mainstream movement of Christians worldwide that supports Israel based on Biblical principles and promises. To find out more go to www.icej.org



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