



International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

השגרירות הנוצרית הבינלאומית בירושלים

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER - FEAST - 2004

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FROM THE DESK OF SAP

To those who receive SAP's Updates and will be at the Feast, we welcome you very warmly and look forward to meeting you at the SAP Booth. To those who are with us in their hearts and will be supporting us with your prayers, we thank you. Sukkot, the Feast of Tabernacles, is also known as 'the Season Of Our Rejoicing' and the frail booths, which Feast visitors will notice erected on rooftops and balconies or in the streets, represent the joy of trusting not in material things, but in God alone. There are times we feel overwhelmed with the needs within the Land and know that our ability to help is dependent on God.

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING.

- Please pray for ~ the information about the work of Social Assistance that will be given in various forms to Feast visitors. Pray that it will be used to raise awareness about the needs and the opportunities for comfort in Israel.
- Please pray ~ for the two SAP tours that will give participants a glimpse of two ongoing SAP projects. One tour group will visit an Army Base where we regularly meet Lone soldiers, and one tour group will learn about the fight against terror and meet victims of terror attacks.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION FOR ROSH HASHANAH

ROSH HASHANAH corresponds to the Biblical Feast of Trumpets. It is a time when the shofar (ram's horn) sounds in the synagogues, reminding

its hearers that the days of judgement are approaching. It is a time of examining one's heart. In Jewish tradition, it also marks the Creation



Some traditional food items that represent the wish for a sweet New Year

of the world, and therefore is considered the New Year. Part of the observances include gift giving and sharing meals with family and friends. It is a very significant and important celebration for Jewish families, and it is very distressing to them not to be able to afford even enough basic food items at this time. Therefore, SAP receives many requests to help needy families enjoy this important time together.

One of these families is a new immigrant family with seven children. Three of the children suffer from anemia, but the family simply cannot afford to eat well. In another family, the man lost his job when the factory closed, and was just able to make ends meet before that. Now they have joined the ranks of the poor.



The staff of SAP travelled to Karmiel in the north to take part in a distribution organised by WIZO and funded in part by SAP through a special donation. Joining with local enthusiastic volunteers, we helped make up the bags of food that

contained not just the usual monthly supply of basic food, but also with chicken, fruit and Rosh Hashanah traditional items, such as honey and a bottle of wine. We watched, and spoke to, immigrants, single parents and members of other needy families who came through the doors to collect their food. It is not easy to have to ask for help, or be dependent on charity, but they are only a part of a growing sector of the population that aid organisations struggle to feed through free restaurants or food distributions.

PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE

Jim Carlill, who provides practical assistance on behalf of SAP tells about a recent home he painted for a needy family with several children. *“Several of the kids ‘helped’ which took a bit of patience, most often having to go over what they did – when they were not looking! The apartment has almost nothing in it except piles of clothes – there was only one wardrobe in the whole apartment. I saw only two toys – a*

If someone wants to combine a holiday in Israel with some painting work with Jim, please contact SAP see below.

plastic box with knobs to produce various sounds and a small teddy bear. To open a tin of tuna for me for lunch, the woman sat on the floor and used a big knife to pierce it and lever the lid open – she did not have a tin opener.”

SCHOOL BAGS

We asked and you responded. Following a request from the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) to the Christian Allies Caucus, the ICEJ was able to join with other Christian organizations to supply school bags to 16,000 needy children who were starting school on the 1st of September.

This followed the effort made earlier in the year by the Caucus to ensure that needy families had enough food on their tables for the week of Passover.

Preparing 16,000 bags involved a lot of cheery volunteers who normally undertake different duties within their organizations, but who took the opportunity to share and get to know one another as they worked. Each bag was unwrapped and inside was placed a pencil case with school items, and a letter stating the gift was on behalf of Christians who support Israel.



SAP Staff help prepare school bags for needy children

We also supplied other school items for children in different neighbourhoods such as Kiryat Hayovel and the Director of the Social Welfare writes:

“I want to thank you very much for your help with the buying of school books for the New Year for 4 students. The students started the year with a schoolbag with nice schoolbooks and because of you, they feel equal”

WINTER IS COMING – MANY FAMILIES WILL LACK WARMTH UNLESS WE CAN HELP. WE KNOW THAT FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, WE WILL BE ASKED TO SUPPLY BLANKETS. YOU CAN GIVE ONE OF THESE BLANKETS FOR \$10. PLEASE PRAY ABOUT YOUR PART IN THIS EFFORT.

For information contact: sapdept@icej.org.il