

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

April 2005

From The Desk Of SAP

It has been our pleasure to welcome back, for a 5-week visit, Ferne and Campbell Millar who were SAP staff members for 7 years. At that time, from 1991, Ethiopian Jews were flooding into Israel and SAP received many requests to help these needy new immigrants. After 14 years of serving the Lord in Ethiopia, the Millars knowledge of the language and culture of that country was a tremendous asset. Beyond the financial assistance, their loving contacts gave hope and encouragement to these gentle people and lasting relationships were formed. SAP has continued to reach out to the Ethiopian immigrants in many different ways which is why we are pleased that the Millars have joined us on this their third time as temporary helpers. As well as following up previous contacts throughout Israel, they are giving a welcome hand in the office.



During March we were blessed to have some assistance from Jane Wilson who was holidaying from the United States. Three years ago Jane had helped out in our office as part of her Bible School course.

SAP's Involvement In:

Passover: During the month of April Passover preparations take place across the land. Homes and work places are thoroughly cleaned and all traces of *hametz* (leaven) removed, culminating in the symbolic burning of a piece of bread over small fires in every street in every neighbourhood. However another kind of preparation takes place too. It is just as thorough and as feverish as the cleaning. This involves concerned and caring social workers and directors of aid organisations who do their best to see that needy families will have food for the holiday season. Many requests have come to us for financial assistance. Sadly we cannot meet them all, but we rejoice that many families will celebrate in dignity this year. Thanks to those who have given towards this important appeal.

Painting Projects

From time to time SAP has supported some community programs in which needy families or poor elderly people have their homes brightened up by a fresh coat of

paint. Recently in Holon we supplied the paint for the homes of ten needy families, and IDF soldiers supplied the labour.

But dingy surroundings are also brightened in a more direct way through SAP. Following recommendations from Israeli Social Workers and aid organizations, Jim Carlill has given a new look to situations.

- Like the crumbling dilapidated home of ‘ Shiran,’ a lonely elderly widow. Her smile portrays her gratitude as she poses with Jim in front of a newly painted wall.
- Enosh, an organization that helps mentally challenged adults, asked if it was possible for someone to paint the apartment of 3 retarded



men. After the dark and grimy walls were transformed, they presented Jim with a small gift and a thank you note on their own initiative to express their appreciation.

- In an Orr Shalom home for disturbed boys, generally from abusive homes, Jim and a helper from Holland painted the fence railings a bright color which delighted the watching children.

Rocket Attacks! In spite of peace hopes and the potential pull out from Gaza, the rockets and mortars continue to fall in that area among, and sometimes in, the homes and buildings of the Jewish communities. In the community of Neve Dekalim, the teachers at the school are often given the order by the army to keep the children in the bomb shelter. Keeping small children indoors for long periods can be very difficult. SAP gladly funded the purchase of a TV and video player in order for entertaining and educational children’s programs to be shown during these enforced times of inactivity. The photo shows the children enjoying the new purchase.



We value your gifts for projects that touch many lives with many different needs.

We value your prayers:

For the people who receive help and learn that Christians around the world love and support them.

And for us, that we receive the funds to help the many needs, and are directed in our choice of who is able to receive support.

Greetings from the SAP Team: If you wish to support a specific project or require further information write to: sapdept@icej.org.il