

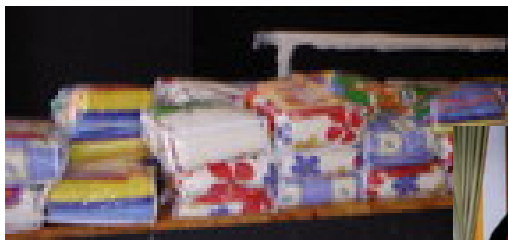
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

February 2005

From the Desk of SAP

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to one of our SAP Team members early in March. Cheryl joined us in 2002 and has undertaken the routine duties involved in managing the office. Her skills and diligence have been a blessing to the department, as has been her cheerful disposition and spiritual maturity. She leaves to participate in a different kind of ministry, while remaining in Israel.

Thank you for responding to our appeal for funds to supply heaters and blankets to families who are unable to afford such extras.



to many needy families in other areas of Israel, and the were paid for needy elderly Netanya on the coast.



Through Social Services Departments and aid organisations, families in various localities benefited from the

Social Assistance Program's winter funding. Blankets and heaters went Jerusalem and electricity bills people in

Almond trees ~ Jeremiah 1:1

Even as winter made its presence felt with cold, rain and snow in Israel this month, the almond trees began to cover their bare branches with beautiful white and pink blossoms. They brighten the bleak landscape and their coming to life promises that spring is on the way to relieve the distress of winter. They are symbols that the sure promises of God will also come to pass for a people in distress.



From The North To The South

- **New immigrants**



Leaving a familiar environment and culture is one of the difficulties that new immigrants face when they come home to Israel. We have been privileged to give a helping hand in many different ways to new immigrants to enable them to settle in to a new

way of life. Recently, we again contributed to an important program, one that addresses health issues. In **Katrin on the Golan Heights and Kiryat Shmona on the Lebanese border**, which is subject to tensions and rocket attacks, over 100 immigrants came to a 'Health Day' to listen to subjects that dealt with the prevention of serious health disorders, good diet, coping with stress, especially that of the terror threat and understanding the health system in Israel. The Doctor in charge of the Immigrants Health Centre wrote,

"... we would like to thank you for your donation which filled us with hope. We look forward to continued good working relationships in the future for the sake of the new immigrants."



- **Children**

Children in **Tel Aviv** who suffer from autism attend a kindergarten especially for ages from several months to three year olds. This provides early intervention before the government-funded programs become available. SAP was pleased to help supply equipment for this important facility for these children and their parents.

- **Elderly**

SAP has ensured that the housebound and infirm elderly in the **coastal city of Netanya** continue to receive necessary extra hours of care in their homes above the very limited hours allotted by the government. A partially paralysed lady is almost totally dependent on her husband who also has health problems and is physically unable to do a lot for her. They live in a tiny 2-room apartment in one of Netanya's poorest areas. Although she really needs around the clock care, they cannot afford this. The extra hours a week means that her dedicated caregiver can do more for her in the way of personal care, laundry, shopping and cooking. The director of the program recently told us how much our funding has helped people like her. A few more hours in the week can also mean not just physical care, but extra hours of companionship for the lonely wheelchair or bed-bound person.

- **Soldiers**



“This was the loneliest day of the year for me”.

That’s what her neighbour told one of our visitors when he heard about her planned participation in the SAP Parents Day excursion to an Army Base **halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv**. He had immigrated to Israel alone and when he went through his Army Service, Parents day was a hard day to get through. There was no family with whom to share his achievements and new found skills and introduce his new friends. That’s why we know that our visits as surrogate parents and the presentation of a special gift are appreciated. About three times a year we are eagerly invited to come and enjoy friendship and a meal with soldiers who for various reasons do not have family support. This includes young men like Yossi who confessed his relationship with his family is very problematic and they do not communicate or Stas and several of his friends who told us how they had immigrated ahead of other family members from the Ukraine and how they missed their families. Two soldiers from Argentina were thrilled to find we had a Spanish-speaking member of the group.

SAP Appeals...

Help for dental needs is one of the top requests that SAP receives from individuals seeking assistance. SAP has committed to help contribute to the purchase of dental equipment, estimated at 150,000 shekels (about \$33,000) in the Biblically historical Jordan Valley city of Beit She’an. A dentist will be hired by the Ministry of Health to work fulltime in the city, and a square three-room building, already owned by the municipality, will serve as the dental clinic. This low-cost service will relieve the pain of needy families who now suffer in silence.

See the ICEJ web site for more details www.icej.org.

- PRAISE:** God for the opportunities we have to say that ‘Christians care’.
- PRAY:** That urgently needed funds will come to extend those opportunities.
- PRAY:** That God will provide for administrative staffing needs for SAP. See www.icej.org for details.

*Greetings from Cheryl, Claudia, Maxine, Nicole, and Yudit.
For further information, please write to: sapdept@icej.org.il*