



International Christian Embassy Jerusalem

השגרירות הנוצרית הבינלאומית בירושלים

## **SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**JANUARY 2005**

*Psa 65:11 You crown the year with your goodness; and your paths drip abundance.*

**Greetings for the new year of 2005 from the SAP team. We hope you had an enjoyable holiday season. SAP celebrated by helping others celebrate:**

### **HANUKAH**

- ❖ One of the occasions within Jewish history of God's deliverance on behalf of His people is celebrated each year in December through the festival of Hanukah. During this happy weeklong celebration, SAP was pleased to help **150 children** forget the trauma of terror by donating to a party hosted by a Rescue and Recovery Organization whose members are among the first at the scene of a terror attack. The children played games and participated in the light of the hanukkiah.



*The Hebrew letters on the wooden top stand for 'A Great Miracle Happened Here.'  
A traditional activity during Hanukah is to play for prizes by seeing which Hebrew letter it falls on.*

- ❖ One hundred and twenty **needy Jewish elderly** received gift packages for Hanukah.

### **CHRISTMAS**

- ❖ The **families** of a church in Bethlehem have suffered much persecution and economic distress. Part of your 'Christmas gift giving' this year included food and gifts for many of these families. They and their children celebrated the birth in their hometown, of the Saviour, by coming together for wonderful party. The children sang Christmas Carols and neighbours were invited, swelling the numbers in the packed hall.
- ❖ We purchased beautiful coloured scarves from an organisation that employs Blind Arab ladies. These were given at a Christmas party for **elderly Arab Christians** living in the Old City. SAP staff went along to the overflowing hall! There was quite an excitement in the air, with elderly and their families, along with several children enjoying the festivities. A local band played popular Arab tunes, and the program included a puppet show, skits by high school girls and boys, a re-enactment of the Good



Samaritan bible story and a grand entrance at the end by Santa himself! Quite a few elderly in wheelchairs were seated in the front, and everyone seemed to enjoy the festivities. Refreshments were served, and all in all, it was a special Christmas day for the community.

- ❖ Christmas gifts in the form of educational games designed for family togetherness were purchased and distributed to the **children** of needy Christian Arab families in the Old City.
- ❖ Christmas gifts and food were delivered to needy Christian Arabs in Shfar Am in the Galilee.

**Thank you for giving, and praying.  
During the last two months of 2004,  
we have also financially assisted the following people groups.**

#### **BEDOUIN TEENAGERS:**



Enjoyed a special outing on a mild winters day in November, when for the first time 28 of them travelled by bus from their village in the Galilee to the Jerusalem Zoo. It was also the first visit to Jerusalem for most of these youngsters. We funded this outing following a request from an organization, which among other social endeavours gives Jewish young people the opportunity to work among Arab groups of young people from a low socio-economic background within a broad variety of educational activities. Two other groups followed at later times.



#### **NEW IMMIGRANTS:**

- Living in Karmiel, received pillows for their households. This town has housed many new immigrants, and through WIZO, we are often called on to help meet various needs.
- And in Kiryat Shmona, we funded another Health Learning Day for immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The new immigrants came together to hear Russian-speaking doctors talk about health issues and they were also able to discuss their own particular health concerns. It is a wonderful help for people, among whom are former residents of Chernobyl, who have not yet learned Hebrew.

***Jews continue to come home to Israel!***  
*The Jerusalem Post reported recently that two sisters, survivors of a concentration camp, made Aliya at ages 97 and 94. They were part of 3,000 American Jews to move to Israel in 2004.*

## CHILDREN:

- From abusive backgrounds, many find their home in one of the Hamiphah Homes for such children. They are placed in extended family units and their special needs are taken care of. However, they often come to the Home with severe dental neglect causing pain and adding to a loss of self-esteem. A special donation ensured some these children received the specialised dental treatment.
- And deaf children in Jerusalem, who also have other physical disabilities, received needed particular aids beyond the budget of their parents. A group of children with 'Asher's Disease' required particular sunglasses to halt the deterioration of their vision. Another child required an orthopaedic belt and his parents write, *"We thank you from the bottom of our heart ... It's not possible to express in written form our appreciation and thanks to you. It's to our sorrow that Natanel is not able to thank you personally because of his limitation and therefore we want to do it in his name and the name of all the family and express our thankfulness. We have no words to describe the excitement we felt through your help towards the improvement of the health of Natanel. We thank God that there are people like you that help us to lighten the burden of families like ours in order to cope with the needs of disabled children."*

## NEEDY FAMILIES:

- When a family cannot break out of the poverty cycle, there is no budget for family holidays and outings. A group of Welfare Dependent families benefited by a wonderful outing that was organised to strengthen family relationships. Our gift for the transport made the day possible.
- And a food program in Beer Sheva is functioning more efficiently thanks to a heating unit we paid for. A wonderful organisation reaches out to the poor and homeless of their area by providing nourishing meals each day in a pleasant setting. Some of the volunteer staff are shown in the photo with the new unit in the background.



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## A Request to help Youth for your prayerful consideration



A sports program has been established in Haifa designed to keep youth off the streets. It has provided a haven for troubled teens including several orphans being brought up by relatives. A recent fire in part of their facility has been a setback but the dedicated staff continue to develop the program. At a recent visit by SAP staff, boys said how this centre has changed their lives. The program gives them a healthy lifestyle, and a sense of community and achievement.

**Request:** funds for equipment, \$US5,000. Please tell us of your interest or write for further information.

Greetings from Cheryl, Claudia, Maxine, Nicole, and Yudit.  
For further information, please write to: [sapdept@icej.org.il](mailto:sapdept@icej.org.il)