



COMFORT, COMFORT
MY PEOPLE



News from the ICEJ Social Assistance Program

June-July 2005



June saw us join with Israel in celebrating Shavout - the Biblical Festival of Weeks - which marks the gathering of the barley harvest, the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai, and for Christians, the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. At the ICEJ we have been privileged to stand with the nation of Israel for 25 years in times of both celebration and hardship. Thank you for your ongoing partnership in our work.

From the desk of SAP...

Stewards of Change

From its inception, the Social Assistance Program has given assistance to needy individuals and families, bringing thousands of hurting people to the Embassy's doors. As the caseload has grown, more and more requests have come from local Social Workers who know that the ICEJ will treat their neediest cases in a professional and caring manner.

We have always put a high value on helping individuals in the name of Christians around the world and working with Israeli professionals in doing so. But as the reach of our work has grown, so have the bureaucratic demands.

So, after prayerful consideration, we have decided to change the way we work, and re-focus our efforts to support individuals through tailor-made partnership projects with our numerous contacts in Social Welfare Departments up and down the land. This will make us better stewards of the limited resources available and maximize the funds going to ordinary Israelis.



Moving on

This has meant that **Claudia Oesau** (left) who has dealt primarily with these many requests for the past two and a half years has moved on from SAP to use her many talents to serve the ICEJ's Finance Team.

SAP Director **Yudit Setz** and Project Manager **Nicole Yoder** will continue in their work assessing the broad range of requests we receive and coordinating the partnership programs on behalf of needy families. These will include food distribution, winter needs and educational help.

In the meantime, the Social Assistance team is pleased to welcome **Jacqueline Delongchamp** who joins us from Florida in the United States to be the new SAP Office Manager.

Prayer and Praise

- Please pray for Claudia and Jacqueline as they undertake their new roles within the ICEJ, and for Jacqueline as she settles into life in Israel.
- Pray for the department at this transition time, that we would continue to be good stewards of the resources we have to comfort the people of Israel as effectively as possible.
- Thank God for the warmth of relationships we have been able to make with Israelis up and down the land through every aspect of our work.



In this issue...



STREET BALLE

SAP helps former street kids dance - This summer, SAP went to the ballet. Not to see some famous visiting Ballet Company but a remarkable performance of The Nut Cracker Suite performed by kids who normally would never have dreamed of finding themselves on stage... [Read More](#)

BOOKS FOR BEERSHEVA

SAP Summer Appeal - Beersheva, the ancient desert town of Abraham is today home to thousands of new immigrants who have made the arduous return to the land of promise. But sometimes the journey is not the hardest part... [Read More](#)



WHEN THE HEADLINES FADE

Reaching out to those that terror leaves behind

Itzak may have escaped unhurt from the attack that changed his life, but nine years later the psychological wounds remain. It is often when the headlines have long faded, that SAP is able to step in. [Read More](#)

On the road with SAP

STREET BALLE

SAP helps former street kids dance

This summer, SAP went to the ballet. No this was not to see some famous visiting ballet company but a remarkable performance of The Nut Cracker Suite performed by kids who normally would never have dreamed of finding themselves on stage.

More remarkable still, is that none of them would have been there were it not for Tamara Mielnik - a remarkable lady who did not start to learn ballet herself until she came to Israel from Belgium at the age of 24.

In 1974, Tamara was asked by the government to develop Israel's matriculation dance program - one still in use in high schools today. Fifteen years later she took her passion to the street, giving underprivileged children a chance to learn lifelong skills of discipline and poise while building value and self-esteem.

Today, in conjunction with a Shelter for street children, these children are offered the opportunity to learn to dance surrounded by people they can trust.

One such girl, Ariela* was 11 when Tamara invited her to learn to dance. With a father in prison and mother unable to cope with his legacy of abuse, Ariela developed behavioral problems that kept her out of school. The Dance School became her second home, helping her become an excellent dancer, qualifying her to teach others, and providing her with the emotional support she needed to complete her schooling on her own.

With your help SAP has been privileged to sponsor a number of young people like Ariela. That is why we joined proud parents and friends at a theatre in Jerusalem to watch former street children and those from very underprivileged homes fulfilling their talents beyond even their wildest dreams.

*To protect her privacy, Ariela's name has been changed for the purpose of this article.



Children from the ICEJ-sponsored dance program perform The Nutcracker Suite in Jerusalem (SAP Photo)

Aliyah & Absorption



BOOKS FOR BEERSHEVA

SAP Summer Appeal

Beersheva - the ancient desert town of Abraham is today home to thousands of new immigrants who have made the arduous return to the land of promise. But sometimes the journey is not the hardest part. Once here, low-income immigrant families struggle to cope with the changes and challenges of life in Israel, and more often than not, their children pay the price.

Many of these kids do not know, nor do they receive the encouragement they desperately need to learn. That's why this summer; SAP has committed to help develop a library in a community center for needy Beersheva families. One that will offer children not only good books but also a place of supervised educational activities in a stimulating, secure environment.

Though there is room in the center to develop the library, equipment is required to do so. Above all, they need books!

With your help we believe we can make a difference to this Beersheva community and provide a place that will welcome and motivate poor immigrant children as a practical demonstration of the love of Christians all around the world. Please consider sharing in this vision with us.

[Donate Online@www.icej.org](http://www.icej.org)
Please remember to check the SAP box and mark your gift for the Beersheva Book Appeal

Survivors of Terror



Rescue workers at the scene of the July 12 Netanya suicide bombing. The emotional scars from such an attack can last for years. (Photo: Channel 2)

WHEN THE HEADLINES FADE **Reaching out to those that terror leaves behind**

On July 12, after a five-month respite in deadly terrorist attacks, an 18-year old suicide bomber blew himself up outside a busy Netanya shopping mall, killing five Israelis and shattering the fragile sense of calm.

For the survivors of such a blast the pain will continue long after the ambulance sirens fall silent. Debilitated by physical and emotional scars, many may find it impossible to work again, plunging themselves and their families into economic distress and placing an intolerable strain on life at home. All around them the daily routine goes on something inside stopped dead when the terrorist struck.

It is then, when the headlines have long faded, that SAP steps in.

Itzak* may have escaped unhurt from the attack that changed his life, but nine years later the psychological wounds remain. It was 1996 when he watched his fiancé board a bus that exploded in front of his eyes.

Once an outstanding student, he became a broken man, making it through the army and a course in computer engineering, but unable to overcome his grief enough to apply himself to a job.

When Itzak recently told his social worker he was thinking about renewing his computer studies, she saw a window of opportunity for his rehabilitation into the work place. But with his tiny welfare allowance unable to meet the costs and no victim support organization prepared to help him after so many years, he tentatively turned to the ICEJ.

Like many Israelis, Itzak knew very little about Christians when the first contact was made, but what he learned changed his life. That Christians across the world would give sacrificially to SAP overwhelmed him - making it possible for him to study - and start living - once again.

*Itzak's name has been changed for the purpose of this article.

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. **To donate or discover more write to sapdept@icej.org.***

SEE HOW SAP WORKS - SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP

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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