

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

March 2005

From the desk of SAP

Matt. 6:29 “ ...Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like these...” so said Yeshua as He spoke to the crowds on the hills of Galilee. The sight of colourful wildflowers that cover the hills and valleys as winter gives way to spring also blesses visitors to Israel at this time of the year. In spite of the beauty



though, hardship remains. A December report tells of 22.4% living below the poverty line. Some believe it is higher. With your help, SAP continues to express comfort and support through financial assistance and personal contact.

Giving To SAP

The Christians of Papua New Guinea generally just manage to eke out a living from the remote and rugged hills in which they live. However, when hundreds of them came together to express solidarity with Israel, they gave out of their meagre incomes to the work of SAP. Their donation to help Israel’ s needy touched our hearts.



Marching with home made Israeli flags, the people of PNG show their solidarity with the Jewish people,



Thank you to all who give to the work of SAP. You are truly partners with us

On the Road with SAP

Along the borders of Gaza, as well as the Jewish settlements within, the residents have been subject to a barrage of rockets and mortars. They fall day or night and although there has been miraculously few deaths, and little damage, there is enormous tension of never knowing when and where they will fall. **SAP was asked to be part of the funding for a special project designed to help the traumatized children of the area.**

When our project coordinator visited the Regional Council of Shaar HaNegev, she learned about the project that among other activities, used computer programs to test the physiological response to particular pictures and enable professional staff to deal with the children's emotional stress and fears. Several centres have been established including one in a kibbutz that has been a target for the rocket attacks. On the first day the children came together, a rocket fell close by causing much distress and emphasizing the need for such a project.



In the hills of Judea SAP financially assisted a program that helps troubled youth

Lachan means 'melody' and music and drama therapy are an important part of the curriculum at the youth village that has been established at Efrat on the hills of Judea to work with troubled youth from around the country. SAP staff visited the collection of caravans that form the beginning of this endeavour, to learn about the various activities that are helping about 30 former school dropouts or drug addicts learn skills and gain self-esteem. They have already produced a powerful drama about the Holocaust. The Director has not had contact with Christians before and was very excited to have us partnering with them. He was amazed to hear about Christian help from around the world.

More on the recent winter distribution.

A young man currently doing his army service found his home life torn apart when his parents were put out of their house due to an accumulation of debts. They are living with relatives but there was no room to take him in as well. The Director of the Social Services in the area of Mateh Yehuda an area outside of Jerusalem who personally delivered one of the blankets our funding provided, told of finding him in a storage shed in terrible conditions and without good warm bed covering. He said it was wonderful that this gift came for him during the very difficult time he is facing and just when he really needed it. *"I wish to try and express our deep appreciation for your great assistance towards the purchase of winter blankets and heaters for families in need. With your generous donation we were able to purchase 75 blankets and 8 heaters, which were a great help to many elderly, disabled, mentally retarded persons and large families. With great appreciation and thanks."*

Thank you for giving!

SAP and Passover

The Director of WIZO, an aid organisation in Karmiel, one of the places that have requested help in funding food packages for Passover writes of visiting a home:

“...the mother of the family wept bitter tears. It was not just the economic situation of the family distressing her. The main reason was that her son who is a soldier does not come home on weekends because there is no food in the home for Shabbat. He prefers to remain in his base because there is food there and the little bit of food in the home can remain for the rest of the family especially his little brothers.”

We would like to help families like these celebrate the Passover with dignity. All the family together. For families who cannot afford even basic food items, buying the special wine, matzot, and other traditional items is way beyond their budget.

A 2004 Thank You Letter For The Passover Donation From The Jerusalem Municipal Council: *“We wish to thank you for your generous donation of food for Passover for many families, this donation was very significant before the holiday. Many families thanked us for their donation and told us what a good feeling it gave them to receive help before the holiday. We look forward to continuing our co-operation in the future. Blessings.”*

Please help the Social Assistance Program to ensure that needy families in Israel will celebrate Passover this year with enough food on the table. The cards that will accompany each gift will assure the recipient of the love and support of Christians. See our appeal on the ICEJ

website. www.icej.org **Mark donations SAP Passover Appeal.**



Before Passover, volunteers across the land prepare packages for needy families.

Pray that we will be able to help many families this Passover.

Praise God for our partners around the world who give for the needy and hurting families of Israel.

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