



May Update 2005



Greetings from the SAP Team in Jerusalem

We are delighted to join with ICEJ News in bringing you a new look monthly email update. We hope that you will continue to enjoy and use the information about our work to inform others and to pray about our needs and impact on the people of Israel.

Questions, comments, gifts: please email us at: sapdept@icej.org

From the desk of SAP...

ANXIOUS DAYS

"So teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90: 12

May 2005: This month we stood with Israel in sorrowful remembrance when the sirens sounded for Holocaust Day and the following week, for Memorial Day for the fallen of Israel's wars. We then rejoiced with her at the 57th birthday of the modern State as families packed recreational areas to barbecue or attended street parties and other special events.



As Israel marks these commemorations, other days are counted as well. The counting of the omer is taking place according to the Jewish calendar, as written in [Leviticus 23:15,16](#). During this time the farmer anxiously awaits the fate of his crops, which are in various stages of maturing and during this time the weather swings from cold to heat and back again on its uncertain course to summer.

Other countdowns are under way as well.

Painful events await Israel this summer as the government moves ahead with large-scale settlement evacuations in the interest of peace.

As the nation marks the days in these uncertain times, we want to continue to offer a hand of comfort to all Israel - [with your help!](#)



In this issue...



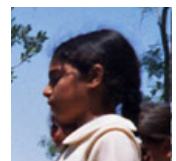
Stories of Deliverance

SAP Passover Appeal - Victims of terror, the disabled, new immigrants, lone soldiers and bereaved families of soldiers as well as many needy families were able to enjoy the Passover holiday thanks to those who gave to the annual ICEJ Passover Appeal. From the capital Jerusalem to Dimona in the Negev; Karmiel in the Galilee to Ramle on the Coastal Plains; Beit Shean in the Jordan Valley, Ashkelon on the Mediterranean Sea and Mateh Yehuda in the Judean Lowlands - your gifts reached the length and breadth of the land.

[More follows](#)

Send a Child to Camp

SAP & Summer - Its tough growing up in Israel, having to cope daily with the effects of the conflict and the resulting economic crisis. At the end of last year, the Ministry of Health reported that nearly 20% of schoolchildren admitted going to bed hungry. Come the long summer months the schools are closed, and many have nowhere to go. **That's why SAP is determined to send them to camp!** [More follows](#)



Reaching through Silence

A father's quest to defy the odds of autism - When Udi learned his son was autistic he invested his life to helping his little boy emerge from an isolated world of silence. Encountering first hand the lack of specialist support in his area, Udi rolled up his sleeves and in 1990 built a kindergarten especially to cater for his child and others like him. During the 1991 Gulf war, a scud missile destroyed it and he had to start again. [More follows](#)

Passover Review



Needy resident of Karmiel collects food package for her family. Hundreds of similar food parcels were funded by Christians around the world through this year's ICEJ Passover appeal.

STORIES OF DELIVERANCE

SAP & Passover Appeal: Thank you for giving!

Victims of terror, the disabled, new immigrants, lone soldiers and bereaved families of soldiers as well as many needy families were able to enjoy the Passover holiday thanks to those who gave to the annual ICEJ Passover Appeal.

From Jerusalem to Dimona in the Negev; Karmiel in the Galilee to Ramle on the Coastal Plains; Beit Shean in the Jordan Valley, Ashkelon on the Mediterranean Sea and Mateh Yehuda in the Judean Lowlands - your gifts reached the length and breadth of the land.

People from all over Israel who have suffered from terrorism received a gift basket and new Ethiopian immigrants and mentally challenged people enjoyed their own special traditional seder where the story of God's deliverance is told.

"In the hagadah it is written that during the passover, none should be in need. In spite of our different religions, you opened your heart with generosity." Social Worker, Jerusalem

Each gift of food included a card with a message of encouragement on behalf of Christians around the world that love the people of Israel.

"You made my day, I have not received any other help from any other source." Social Worker in Dimona, Negev.

Summer Appeal



SEND A CHILD TO CAMP

SAP & Summer - This year, as in the past we have the opportunity to fund a number of different programs that are designed to improve the physical and emotional well being of children throughout the summer vacation. *Two examples follow...*

1. Science for the Excluded - Kiryat Shmona

At the northern tip of Israel adjacent to the Lebanese border, the bustling town of Kiryat Shmona is best known as the frequent target of Hizbullah rocket and mortar attacks. But it is also home to a groundbreaking Scientific Studies Centre that each year offers 35 selected youngsters from across the nation a unique study experience.

The young people may be religious or secular, from the city or the country, Israeli born kibbutzniks or new immigrants or from the Arab sector, but together they spend two weeks working alongside scientists on authentic projects such as cancer research and medical plant genetics.



UN Blue Line on the Lebanon-Israel border, near Kiryat Shmona (AP file)

Chosen from the neediest of families, unable to afford this kind of opportunity and with little access to higher education, most who participate in this program go on to university. As well as various social activities, the young people help others in the community through social service programs.

SAP staff have visited the center to see this science camp in action and witnessed the impact it has had on students who otherwise would remain trapped below the poverty line. We would like to help them continue giving needy Israeli students a chance to contribute to the scientific development of the country.

2. Youth Leadership Training - Karnei Shomron

The community of Karnei Shomron, orders the biblical homeland of Ephraim and Manasseh and boasts a population of 1,500 families including many children and teenagers. But it is a town in a precarious security situation, made worse by a reduction in government funding.

As a result community leaders face enormous difficulties organising affordable summer activities for youths. Instead, parents have taken the initiative to not only provide educational and social day camps for children, but at the same time, employment and leadership training opportunities for the teenagers, under the watchful eye of experienced adult volunteers.

SAP staff have visited this community and met with the project organisers. We would like to encourage and support all the families of this settlement with Christian help for the day camp program this summer.



Equipment donated by SAP to an autistic kindergarten in Israel.

REACHING THROUGH SILENCE
A father's quest to defy the odds of autism

The joy of birth and the anticipation of watching a child grow can be cruelly dashed for parents whose little ones are diagnosed with autism.

Until recently parents in Israel had to watch as others went off to kindergartens and through the normal stages of development while they struggled to cope with a child in the family with whom they could not communicate.

When Udi Rigai learned his son was autistic, he invested a huge amount of time into his little boy to help him emerge from his isolated world. He also did something about the lack of support for these children and their families when they are still very young.

In 1990 Udi built a kindergarten in the Tel Aviv area especially for these special children including his son. In 1991 during the Gulf war, a scud missile destroyed it and he had to start again. Their daughter, born after their son, was also autistic. The extra parental involvement and effort also had to begin again.

Since then other kindergartens have been formed across Israel. The special program and one-on-one attention given, has seen children integrated into regular schools and virtually cured of autism. The parents of the children now receive support and counseling and are saved the time, effort and cost of going from one authority to the next, seeking help and advice.

But all this comes at a cost, and Udi's philosophy is 'to give every child a chance' without forcing parents to shoulder the whole financial burden themselves.

SAP has been privileged to financially support two of these kindergartens by the funding of equipment for both in and outdoors, much of it raised by an Australian couple - John and Jesma O'Hara who have dedicated profits from their second hand stores to SAP children's projects in Israel.

The O'Haras will return to Israel at the end of the year, but this time with a group of Christian School educators. One of their stops will be to this innovative and important kindergarten that leads little children out of a prison of silence into meaningful interaction with others.

Udi's son, now an educated young man about to enter his army service, is a testimony to this program's exceptional success.

SEE HOW SAP WORKS: http://www.icej.org/comfort/comfort_sap_about.html
SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP: http://www.icej.org/comfort/comfort_sap_help.html

SAP fulfills its calling to comfort God's people according to Isaiah 40:1 touching the lives of Israelis by contributing to the needs of every sector of society in every part of the country in the name of a worldwide Christian constituency committed to serving the people of Israel through practical means.
To donate or discover more write to sapdept@icej.org.

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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