

ICEJ Aid

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN EMBASSY JERUSALEM



November 2010 Email Update

LOVE IS THE REVOLUTION

ICEJ AID daily touches the lives of many across the land in every sector of the society. A look back at 2010 puts a spotlight on some special projects.

Highlights from 2010:

A Warm Home for Holocaust Survivors



2010 began with a bang as efforts got underway to purchase and refurbish an old building in Haifa turning it into a beautiful assisted living facility for destitute holocaust survivors. The official opening of the new home took place in September 2010. Today 27 survivors reside there with some 43 more set to arrive before the end of the year. Sara M. one survivor to benefit shared with us, *"Today I am very sick. I have water in my lungs and I have had a stroke. The Home will be for me a light at the end of the tunnel after all I have gone through."* In September, a €200,000 donation allowed the purchase of a second building to house another 40 survivors. An estimated €200,000 is needed to renovate it in 2011.

A Caring Heart – Food Distribution Program

With poverty a daily worry for 20% of Israeli families, ICEJ Aid, stepped in the gap by providing two food distribution vans to collect and transport food to 4,000 families in need each month. This year, the vans drove about 72,000 kilometres and transported 288 tons of food, enabling 94,000 meals to be distributed. In August, a refrigeration unit was installed in one of the vans enabling safe transport of refrigerated items. One woman wept her appreciation while expressing her despair, *"It is hard for me to come here and receive help, but I have no choice. I have nowhere else to turn. Thank you so much."*



Planting Immigrants in the Land of their Fathers

A single mother of three immigrated to Israel with just a few suitcases and a lot of idealism. She shared with us the challenges she faced upon arrival and how she had to choose between paying her bills and eating. She found support to learn the language, find employment, and get established in the land through the Shoulder to Shoulder program. This year many families received aid with basic items, education, dental treatment and more through various programs. This young mother shared, *"Things were worse than I've ever experienced. I don't know what I would have done without the assistance I received."*

Honoring the Pioneers in Their Golden Years

Kibbutz Beit HaEmek in partnership with ICEJ AID and the Swiss branch of the ICEJ refurbished a senior centre for kibbutz and area residents. As the former pioneers and founders of the kibbutz age, they are in greater need of assistance. With family members moving away, social interaction is more necessary to stave off loneliness as well. A former youth centre fallen into disrepair and disuse now allows the elderly to enjoy weekly social events and enables simple work programs to provide extra income.



Combating Poverty Through Education Toward Employment

Without the experience and education required for competing in today's job market, many find themselves struggling below the poverty line. ICEJ Aid provided vocational training for about 80 recipients aimed at moving individuals from poverty to economic independence. Included among these were women over forty out of the workforce for years, high school drop-outs, evacuees, Arab women, and Ethiopian immigrants. One young Ethiopian immigrant told us, *"I don't know where I'd be today if I hadn't been able to study. It touches me so deeply to know that there are people around the world who don't even know me that are willing to give me this opportunity."* In addition, some 100 Christian Arab children received educational assistance.



Arab Israeli Social Needs

The Arab sector which makes up 20% of Israeli society is one of the poorest in Israel today with 49% of Arab families living below the poverty line. ICEJ Aid in partnership with the Forum of Social Service Directors for Arab Communities funded a nationwide survey to assess the social needs of the community. Set to be completed by the end of 2010, the information will help improve services through 82 social welfare departments nationwide. Forum director, Emil Samaan, stressed the challenge of meeting this need when many Arab social workers are in economic distress themselves.

"Your aid in providing us with this essential tool is deeply appreciated and helps us direct our limited resources to the real needs in the community."

The Human Face of the Crisis

ICEJ Aid reaches out to those most intimately affected by the conflict in the region through loss of loved ones, physical injury, and trauma.

Professional staff along the Gaza border received training for trauma treatment. Seven families received funding for education to help put their lives back together and fifteen children received a full year of emotional therapy in Shiloh. The founder and president of the Shiloh Children's Fund reminded us, *"We are living in perilous times, both for Israel and the world...the ongoing threats of terrorism and war are ever present and the children suffer from those fears every day. Your donation helps ease the trauma in these children's lives as well as rebuild the biblical heartland of Israel."*



Join with us as we continue to reach out to the people of Israel!

Help us wish Arab Christians a joyous celebration of Christmas by providing food baskets for families and gifts for the children in Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Old City of Jerusalem. Your gift of \$20 enables us to provide a gift for a child and \$100 provides a food basket.

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