



SECURITY BRIEFING FROM THE ESHKOL REGION

BY LAURINA DRIESSE

Ilan Keith Isaacson is security chief for the Eshkol Regional Council, which stretches across 40 kilometers of the 65-kilometer Israeli border with Gaza. During a recent

interview for the weekly ICEJ Webinar series online, he shared about the recent conflict with Hamas and the constant threats his communities face.

“When 4300 missiles are being shot into Israel within 11 days, it’s very hard to function in our area”, he said. “In the Eshkol region, there were 729 sirens in those 11 days and about 30% of the missiles which were shot into Israel fell into the Eshkol region. But something more concerning to us is that 120-millimeter mortars, which is a very deadly bomb, fell directly into our kibbutzim - almost 80 in all. To hear the sirens hourly is one thing, but when the mortars are falling in the kibbutzim, that is something else – that is actually terrifying!”

Knowing how volatile this region along the Gaza border is, the ICEJ has worked closely with the Eshkol region to provide equipment for security volunteers and first responders, ‘walkie-talkie’ radio equipment to respond quickly to a crisis, fire-fighting trailers, and protective clothing for use in extinguishing the ongoing arson fires started by incendiary balloons released from Gaza into the Israeli farming fields, and finally dozens of life-saving mobile bomb shelters.

Expressing his gratitude, Ilan said: “Thank you for the bomb shelters... We only have between 5 to 15 seconds to get into shelters here. Thank you for what you give to the rescue and search teams of the municipality. Thank you for the fire volunteers’ equipment so that we can deal with these very extreme situations. With all these things, there are no better words than ‘just saving lives’.”

With only an unwritten, unconditional ceasefire in place, the situation could erupt again at any time.

“We have to be on alert all the time, strong all the time, and have all the equipment ready for us as within seconds the mood can go from a regular lifestyle to the firing of missiles”, Ilan explained.

To ensure these vulnerable Israeli communities along the Gaza border are well prepared to protect themselves from further rocket onslaughts, please help the ICEJ continue to provide them with bomb shelters and other needed security equipment. 🌐

PLEASE GIVE TODAY AT:
icej.org/crisis

GIVING COMFORT TO JEWISH FAMILIES AFTER TERROR

BY MAXINE CARLILLE

The sigh of relief in Israel was palpable. Lockdowns, further lockdowns, and restrictions! Now it was almost over. A year of challenges left behind. Yet suddenly, the sense of freedom was gone. A lockdown of a different kind was triggered by repeated barrages of Hamas rockets. For nearly two weeks, especially in southern Israel, residents spent days and nights in bomb shelters.



ICEJ Homecare regularly visits families in Beersheva and other places in southern Israel. Unable to visit during the war, phone calls assured them that Christians around the world were praying and standing with them in this difficult time, and that we would come by at the first opportunity. Finally, we could resume our visits, taking along bags with dolls, games, colouring books and pencils for children.

The Homecare team visited a single mother with three young children. They live in a poor area and her apartment does not have its own ‘saferoom’. We heard her story, and the fear in her voice.

“We all slept in the living room and when the siren went off in the middle of the night, which happened often, I took the baby of six months on one arm, my special needs daughter on the other, while the six-year-old had his shoes near the door and we ran down the three floors in a matter of seconds”, she explained. “We were trained, and it became our sport to do it as fast as possible.”

“In the saferoom, we were with neighbours and the minute my boy and another his age arrived in the saferoom, they played as friends, not thinking of any danger”, she added.

Whenever the rockets came, another elderly lady said she relived childhood memories of suffering in the Second World War, but she was sure the God of Israel would help her.

We all respond differently in times of crisis. But we can make a difference for those who get overwhelmed by assuring them that they are not alone, and that others are supporting, giving and praying for them. 🌐

**To support the work of the ICEJ Homecare team,
please give at: icej.org/homecare**