



## Summer 2010 Newsletter

## Jerusalem



Schoolbag Project



Kidsclub Project



Dog Training Project

***"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:8-14***

What an enormous comfort these words are for Israel in these days! The whole world is rising up against Israel. The media present their own version of the facts and people believe and accept it without question. The countries that used to be friends are being influenced by world opinion and are turning their backs on Israel.

Let us hold on to what God says in His Word. Let us listen to what the prophets are saying about this time. It is not without reason that God says further on in the chapter: "Those who wage war against you will be as nothing at all. For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I myself will help you, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel."

**Ruth, Mina, Mazal and Yaacov** are a few of the Holocaust survivors who receive a monthly food coupon. They have been adopted by people from Holland and Germany. You can do the same. Some people have sent them cards and some have even visited their adopted grandpa or grandma in Israel during the past year.

These meetings are wonderful and the Holocaust survivors are impressed by meeting the people who donate 50 Euros per month for them, who think of them and pray for them. They now know they are no longer alone.

Through other donations, Yad L'Ami is able to do extra things for the Holocaust survivors. For instance, in May, during a Yad L'Ami study/work week, we took a group of housebound people out for a visit to the zoo. It was wonderful for them to be outside, whether in a wheelchair or supported by the arm of a helper, laughing at the monkeys and enjoying a tasty treat before returning home.



One of our visits in the past weeks was to three sisters aged 92, 89 and 84 years. The youngest had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and needs more physiotherapy but cannot afford it. Yad L'Ami is looking into the possibility of helping her perhaps by paying for six therapy home visits that would enable her to use her hand again. Another lady is almost blind; she would be able to read again if supplied with a special magnifier and glasses. We are planning to meet this need. Rita needs to go to the doctor. Mina needs new glasses. These are just a few of the needs. When we leave their homes, we see such thankful people embued with new hope. Thank you so much for all your help! We will continue to help these elderly Holocaust survivors.

**In the January newsletter** we mentioned being called upon to help with a new project in Sderot, a two-day intensive training course for social workers to enable them to respond effectively in time of war. Will there really be war as everyone is expecting? Whatever the case, the threat is present and they are preparing themselves. Special gifts were provided for one day of study and it will be held on July 1. The director of social work and the social workers are very grateful to all of you who gave a donation. We will be present at the close of the day.

**In Sderot**, new shelters are being built at a rapid pace onto every house and apartment. Instead of communal shelters, every home will have its own protection. So, when needed, everyone in the home can find shelter. Rockets can land within fifteen seconds of the alarm being sounded.



In the past months, we have received a lot more requests for help for individual families in Sderot:

**Ruth and her family made *aliyah*** from the Caucasus region. They live in a small apartment in Sderot, which is currently under doing the addition of a shelter. We sat together on a sofa and Ruth, apologizing for the conditions, spoke about her life. She married at seventeen and has three children. Her husband has just left her and she does not understand why; he is handicapped and she has taken care of him for many years as he is paralyzed on one side due to a brain tumor. After the last operation, his speech and swallowing reflex were affected. The tension was too much for him and he became violent towards his wife and children, and went to live with his mother. Ruth does not work as she's had a heavy load at home taking care of her husband and children. They have lived on the minimal amount her husband received in social security benefits; now she is left with no income.

The three children, aged 14, 13 and 7, receive psychological help. Traumatized by years of rocket attacks from Gaza, the elder daughter, aged 13, is on medication. As soon as the alarm is heard she is unable to walk and faints. We met the younger daughter, a cute girl of 7 years of age, who has crooked teeth. A year ago, when the alarm went off signaling another incoming rocket from Gaza, she ran to find shelter and fell on her mouth. The dental costs are not covered by the health insurance and there is no money for the treatment. We would like to help her, but have ascertained that treatment is not possible before the age of 11. She is suffering as the children at school call her "rabbit". Upon our arrival at Ruth's home, she was holding a bill that had just been delivered for ambulance fees. Yad L'Ami could help immediately by paying the 175 Euro bill. We were able to encourage Ruth and her children with food coupons, but these visits are not joyful when you have to leave a family in this situation, with particular concerns for the needs of the children. Outside, the social worker mentioned: "There are so many broken families due to the tension." In the meantime, people in Holland have adopted Ruth and her children for six months by giving them monthly food coupons for 50 Euros. She is a beautiful, strong young woman who is suffering so much pain; she is thankful and touched by this help.

**We visited another family** consisting of a husband, wife and two sons aged 5 years and 8 months, by request of the social workers. A year ago a rocket destroyed all the furniture in their small home. They took cover in the toilet, as it is in the middle of the house and has no exterior wall. They received compensation for only 30% of the value of the furniture; the rest needs to come through different agencies. Having no extended family, Esther cannot work as there is nobody to take care of the baby. At the moment, her husband is also unemployed. They requested help in buying jars of baby food. Esther, a very beautiful 32-year-old woman, lost four teeth while pregnant with her baby and cannot afford to replace them. We were able to pay their water and electricity bills and leave food coupons for them. Consider these children for one moment who, from the womb, have been faced with fear and a lack of security. One of the most important needs a child has is to feel safe and secure.

**We are starting a new project** for such families named: "[Adoption Plan for Families in Sderot.](#)"

You can help a family for half a year by sending 50 Euros per month to "Adoption Plan Sderot." Contact us if you plan to adopt a family for a longer period and we will send you information on the family.

**We won't be able to mention all our projects in one letter, but you will find more details of our activities on our website.**

**It remains for us to offer heartfelt thanks to everyone for your prayers and financial donations for the Jewish people. God's blessings from Zion!**

**Donations can be made in Israel, directly to:**

**The First International Bank of Israel Ltd.**

**Jerusalem Main Branch 012**

**Account No: 825026 Swift Code: FIRBILITXXX**

**Amutat Ha-Ma'ayan Yad L'Ami**

**Checks may also be sent to:**

**Amutat Ha-Ma'ayan Yad L'Ami**

**P.O. Box 32116**

**Jerusalem**

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