

The Joseph Storehouse Update

June 2006

“The Lord bless you out of Zion and you shall see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life.” Psalm 128:5

Elections: Israel’s Voters Shift Their Focus from Defense to Economic and Civic Concerns:

Shalom Friends,

Poverty in the year 2006 is becoming a national concern as last year’s newly published statistics, the daily media, and the outcome of the most recent Israeli elections held in March clearly indicate. Government cuts have hit the most vulnerable and needy segments of society over the past months, that is: children, the elderly, the disabled, holocaust victims and terrorist victims, to name a few. Statistics reveal that 1 in 3 Israeli children now live below the poverty line, 1 in 4 elderly people are destitute, and over a half a million people in Israel are dependent upon daily food handouts.

The 2006 Israeli national elections represent a shift of focus from defense issues to economic and social concerns, swaying voters, in many cases, to mark their ballots for other than leading political figures and parties.

The one big surprise in the latest elections was the last minute appearance and substantial win of the Pensioner’s Party. According to party sources the Pensioners Party was established for the sole purpose of caring for Israel’s retired population. “We established the party because of the public’s disappointment in the large parties that have not taken care of pensioners until today,” the sources said. A Bank of Israel report published in April 2006 revealed that Israeli old-age pensions rank 19th out of 23 countries surveyed. Only Norway, Australia, the Czech Republic and Ireland give more meager old-age pensions than Israel. Israel’s child allowances came 22 out of 23, with only Spain ranking more austere than Israel. (Haaretz) The Pensioners won their seats from the young, who were sending a protest vote against the major parties, in effect saying that it’s time for Israeli politics to deal with the nitty-gritty of civic affairs. The election surprise of

the Pensioner Party’s gain, of such widespread support, is indication of a growing national concern.

In the midst of appalling government apathy and bureaucracy, that has crippled aid to the poor and needy, *Vision for Israel & The Joseph Storehouse* has continued to pour forth a steady stream of weekly and monthly assistance to the most destitute segments of Israeli Society. Our social services department sends out hundreds of bags of household supplies, food, clothing, toys, and toiletries to individuals and families in need each month. *The Joseph Storehouse* medical department continues to distribute medical supplies and equipment throughout the country to institutions caring for those below the poverty line. Even now, the *Pack to School Project* is once again preparing to make the first day of school a happy time for several thousand Israeli children by supplying school packs and school supplies to needy young people in August and September of 2006. All of this has been made possible through the prayers, concerns and generous donations of friends abroad.

We thank so many of you for your faithfulness to the poor and the destitute in Israel and for enabling *The Joseph Storehouse* to be Messiah’s hands of provision and comfort. As confirmed by recent statistics, the needs have increased. We pray that this will touch the hearts and concerns of each one of us to an even greater sacrifice and generosity in the days and months ahead.

Blessings,

Barry and Batya Segal

Israeli Press Reports: Poverty Increases in Israel

MEDICAL COSTS IN ISRAEL THIRD HIGHEST IN WEST: The price of medical services and drugs in Israel is among the highest in the world, the Center for Information on Equality and Social Justice in Israel said in April. Israelis pay over 50 percent more for medical services and drugs than citizens of European countries. (Haaretz)

POVERTY INCREASES IN THE HAREDI RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY: Recent research points to severely increased poverty among the haredi population. According to the study, lack of appropriate education, large families and the cut-backs in child allocations by the National Insurance Institute have combined to create a near-crisis situation among haredim, despite increased work-force participation. (Jerusalem Post)

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS DON'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN FOR HELP: The Israeli government is not taking care of the physical and health needs of Holocaust survivors, leaving such activities to the survivors' welfare fund. Neither does the state take care of the severe mental-health problems that many survivors have. Studies that have been carried out to examine survivors' needs have been, for years, conducted by voluntary organizations, with no government assistance. However, the groups that have been helping survivors say that they can no longer shoulder the burden of caring for a population whose needs are reaching their peak. (Haaretz)

HARDSHIP DURING THE PASSOVER HOLIDAYS: 10% Of Israelis Not Able To Afford A Seder: The number of people requesting food aid for Pesach was up 28 percent from last year, according to statistics published by the charity organization Latet. Latet, together with more than 100 local charities throughout Israel, participated in an annual Pesach food collection drive a week prior to the holiday and encouraged the public to donate food packages to hundreds of needy families. The results of the survey found that one third



of all Israelis would find it financially difficult to get through the Pesach holiday and 10% of the general population would not be able to hold a Seder meal at all. (Jerusalem Post)

Family Welfare

Vision for Israel & The Joseph Storehouse Helps Terrorist Victim's Families With Gift Vouchers:

Two weeks prior to the Jewish Pesach (Passover) holidays, *The Joseph Storehouse* mailed out gift vouchers to 100 terrorist victims and their families. The vouchers were redeemable for food and clothing enabling many victims of terrorism to celebrate what otherwise could have been a meager and depressing holiday season. *The Joseph Storehouse* team is working hard to meet the increasing demands for family assistance. We are so grateful for your generous giving towards those who are in desperate need.

- Six huge truckloads of clothing and toys were distributed to Arab communities on several deliveries in the last **3** months. Many destitute families were visited by our helpers and were provided with boxes filled with clothes. The children also were overjoyed to receive toys.
- In March, **62** families received food, clothing and household goods from *The Joseph Storehouse*.
- During the first two weeks of April alone, **41** families received Passover holiday food and clothing as well as other essential supplies. That number had increased to **76** families by the end of April. In the first two weeks of May, **46** families have received essential aid from *The Joseph Storehouse*. Our staff has been working overtime on deliveries!
- Gift vouchers were given to over **100** victims of terrorism for Passover. **We are committed to providing even more for Passover in 2007.**



Medical Supplies & Support

- 12 hydraulic beds, wheelchairs, bedsides and an ultra sound machine were given to a hospital in Jerusalem. This specific hospital cares for a large number of elderly people. They were so grateful for this timely donation that came exactly as they finished building a new wing in their hospital. All the beds went to furnish the new department.
- The main Israeli center for the handicapped received wheelchairs, a hoist and medical disposables from *The Joseph Storehouse* medical department. They phoned us to say how much they appreciate this gift and how the hoist can serve many people with physical disabilities.
- Disposable supplies, hydraulic hospital beds, bedside tables and other equipment were donated to a center for children with special needs in the Ein Kerem.
- An Arab Israeli village in the Galilee received for their medical unit 6 manual beds, 3 wheelchairs and portable commodes.
- A general medical center in Ashkelon received wheel chairs, wheeled walkers, medical disposables, dental and surgical equipment at the end of May. **A big truckload!**
- Animal lovers will be pleased to learn that more than five centers including the SPCA and parks received recently expired meds for their animals in need.

Thank you for your help - We are so privileged to be able to help and serve in so many medical centers, trauma units, homes for the elderly and centers for the handicapped. Our main need at this stage is to find qualified people in USA and UK in order to help us locate medical supplies. If you are aware of such help please inform us.

Pack to School 2006 – More children who we can help!

Vision for Israel & The Joseph Storehouse have been carrying the vision to assist children since 1998. This project has been the most enjoyable to perform. As the 2005-2006 school year comes to an end many school packs will be showing signs of wear and tear, having weathered months of hard use by notoriously rough and tumble Israeli students. As we have placed an order for 15,000 school bags this coming summer, we will have blessed over 107,000 kids by the beginning of this coming school year. Schools in Israel do not provide lockers for students; therefore each child has to carry his or her books, notebooks and study supplies in a backpack. Most of us remember how very important it was to be equipped with the same gear and essential tools as our peers, on that first day of school each September. It is not difficult to imagine the emotional trauma to a child, young or old, who is not able to start

the academic year well equipped with supplies and a backpack like everyone else. Due to your contributions, backpacks filled with school supplies will be distributed to communities, through social service agencies and various organizations in Israel. ***Your generous gift will make the first school day a lot brighter for many young people in Israel.***

With Much Appreciation for You

So many tour groups and individuals are dropping by *The Joseph Storehouse* to demonstrate their support and interest. Thank you for coming to visit us and encouraging our team, you are truly a blessing. Many of you are coming with supplies for *The Joseph Storehouse*, which we deeply appreciate.

Our focus is to bring comfort to those who mourn in Zion, to provide food and clothing to the poor and needy, to welcome new immigrants and to supply emergency and medical aid for many who are suffering.

Please pray for our staff worldwide and in Jerusalem to be protected spiritually and physically.

Our financial needs are mounting as challenges to bring containers into Israel are increasing and consequently we are purchasing more items for distribution from local sources. This is helping the economy in Israel but also causing our ministry to have a greater need for funds. We are able to provide for others in these times because you bless the ministry. On behalf of many families we say thank you.

Thank you Letters Written to The Joseph Storehouse

Shalom, We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generous gifts that made the children so very happy. Our children's home specifically aims to care for children in high risk situations. With your donations you are enriching the children both educationally and in ways that deeply touch their hearts. You are giving pleasure as well as helping in their over all rehabilitation. *I.L. General Manager*

Dear Vision for Israel Staff, I would like to thank your wonderful organization that helped us in the past and is still assisting us to survive this very difficult period in our lives. I am a widow, a single mother. My husband passed away from a very serious disease. I am also a student who is raising a down-syndrome, beloved son – with all of the challenges and difficulties that are involved. Your organization sent us food items, toiletries, cleaning supplies and clothes. I was so moved to receive your parcels and to learn that organizations such as yours exist. May there be more people like you in the world. Keep up the great work you are doing. It is wonderful.
LSY

Mark your Calendar for these upcoming events

UK "Love Thy Neighbor" Conference – Friday, June 23rd in Brighton/Hove – Please join us for a very special time of teaching and worship. Hear first hand the remarkable testimony of an ex Islamic Palestinian terrorist who became a lover of the Jewish people. Don't miss this event. Call our UK Swindon office for more details at 44-01793-862-2121

USA - Barry & Batya in Ministry Tour this summer - We will be in New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Nevada, Florida and Los Angeles, CA this summer. Please call our USA office for more information and the dates. 1-866-351-0075 or write to: steve@vfiusa.com.

Germany - September tour - Please contact our German office for dates and locations. Call: 49 (0) 89.566595 or write to: info@visionfuerisrael.de

Jerusalem - Succot Celebration, October 9-12, 2006 – Join many who are coming from all of the nations to worship the King of kings in Jerusalem. ***This year in Jerusalem.*** Visit our Succot website for frequently updated information about this year's celebration: www.succotcelebration.com.

USA - Charlotte NC - December 2006 – We will dedicate our Charlotte NC new headquarters. We welcome you to come and see our new storehouse and offices in Charlotte NC. If you are not able to join us, please inform your friends who are nearby to come and visit us.

USA - Troy, (outside Detroit), Michigan – December 15-17, 2006

Our Most Needed Items

Remember that if you are coming to Israel on tour and will be visiting the JSH, you can bring any of these items as a donation within your luggage. Should you have any questions about styles, sizes, or shipping, please contact us.

- **Highest Priority:** Comfortable and fashionable shoes, (UK trainer/US jogging, sandals) long skirts for women and girls, plain and modest trousers for boys and girls. **Toiletries** – Shampoo & conditioner, deodorant, sun lotion, feminine pads, shaving foam, cotton balls; Vitamins; baby soap and oil. **Linen** - blankets, duvets, sheets and duvet covers, pillow cases, bath towels; Kitchen & household items.
- **Medical Supplies:** (All items to be within the expiry date) **Disposables:** e.g. - dressings, tape, catheters, syringes & needles - all sizes, gloves - examination & surgical, IV fluid giving sets & accessories, oxygen giving supplies, adult diapers, incontinence supplies. **Surgical Items:** e.g. - packs, instruments, gowns & drapes. All emergency, resuscitation, rescue & monitoring items - both equipment (portable) & disposables.

'Order Free DVDs'

- **Love Thy Neighbor**
- **Vision for Israel & The Joseph Storehouse** ("For Those Who Mourn In Zion", "A Visit To Bethlehem" and "Pack To School".)

We will be happy to send you one or both of these free DVDs. These short but informational presentations will enable you and others in your church and home group meetings to visit a cross section of the people who are recipients of gifts and assistance from *The Joseph Storehouse*. These are tools for you to use for sharing with others about the dire needs of impoverished people in Israel and how we are able to relieve them.

Mailing Addresses for Donations and Inquiries

Israel: Vision for Israel, P.O. Box 7265, Jerusalem 91073, Israel - Call (972) 2.570.4010

United Kingdom: The Joseph Storehouse Trust., P.O. Box 5, Swindon SN3 4FB, England, Call + 44 (0) 1793.862121 - *For UK only: Please write cheques to *The Joseph Storehouse Trust.*

U.S.A and Canada: Vision for Israel, P.O. Box 7743, Charlotte, NC 28241, U.S.A., Call Toll Free 1.866.351.0075, 1-704-583-8445, Fax. 1-704-583-8308

Germany, Switzerland & Austria: Vision fuer Israel e.V., Reutterstr. 74, Munich, D-80689, Germany, Call + 49 (0) 89.566595

Singapore: For any questions or for more information write to: info@visionforisrael.com.

* For Singapore only: Please write cheques to *The Joseph Storehouse Trust and mail to the England office address for now.*