

Dear Friends

In the months that have passed God has spoken to us in a special way about “the lost sheep of Israel”, and about his love and mercy for them.

"I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice." (Ezekiel 34, 14-16)

In our work, we face more and more people who live under impossible conditions. These are people who are deprived of basic living conditions, and of the hope that anything in their life could change for the better. During the time that God spoke to us about his care for the lost sheep of Israel, we came in contact with a family living in a state sponsored apartment, but who were thrown out on the street because they were not able to pay even the small amount required by them for the apartment. Their situation made us aware of several other families who were also living with the threat of being thrown out of their home. The fear of having to live on the street, with nowhere to go, maybe with children or with disabilities, and also the inability to pay the required rent, puts an incredible amount of stress on the families. Many tell of inability to sleep, of challenges with eating, of depression. These are Israeli families in impossible situations, some with debt growing through the roof. We see them as some of His lost sheep, in desperate need for help.

Machaseh has therefore now reached an agreement with Amidar, the state company in charge of sponsored housing. We have promised to pay a certain amount for three different families per month for one year, and they have promised not to throw them out in this period. In all three families we see hope for them to get to a point where they can care for themselves. To help you understand what conditions some people in Israel are living in, we want to anonymously share their situation.

One is a young single mother, who has been left by her husband. She has two young children, and have been living with the threat of eviction, and of living on the street with the children.

Another family consists of two handicapped parents; one mentally and one physically. They have three children; one is in the air force, and two others have difficult situations concerning physical or mental health.

The family has been living with the threat of eviction.

The last one is a single mother, who has experienced domestic violence, and is deeply hurt and handicapped due to these experiences. She needs help to receive her rightfully due pension from the state, but has in the meanwhile been threatened with eviction.

In addition to the agreement with Amidar, we also help the families in all ways we can; legal assistance, counseling and practical help. Our aim is to give them back their hope, and help them on the way to a dignified life. We want to show them the love of the One who called us to the lost sheep of Israel. Please join us in praying for these families, and thanking God for the opportunity to help them in this way.

With love and gratitude for your faithful prayers and support.  
WE WISH YOU ALL A BLESSED PESACH!