



## A FUTURE AND A HOPE

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## 2015 Highlights—2016 Vision—Prayer Requests

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**WE ARE SO THANKFUL!**

### 2015 Highlights

Irena and Orit met last year with dozens of women, ranging in age from 18 to over 50. Some women were already single mothers and some were new mothers, who decided to keep their pregnancies despite all the harsh circumstances of their lives. Most women had a great need for practical help, but all of them, without exception, needed encouragement to make courageous decisions for life.

During a certain period in 2015, we had four women come for counselling, who were pregnant with twins and some came to us because they became pregnant as a result of rape or incest. What unites most of the women who contact us are the very difficult life circumstances over which they have no control. In late November, two new immigrant families came to us; they had come to Israel with little more than the clothes on their backs. The women were pregnant and facing tremendous pressures to abort. They only needed a listening ear and an understanding heart—after what seemed like marathon counselling sessions, they decided to give life to their pre-born children.

There has been considerable spiritual impact in the work of *A Future and A Hope*. All of the counselling is, and has always been, Biblically-based. The value of life and its Creator, and the blessings of children and of a home that seeks to honor God, among other things, have always been part and parcel of what we communicate to the women facing a crisis-pregnancy situation. In addition to the lives of the children who have been saved, we have been privileged to see many mothers come to a saving knowledge of Messiah Yeshua, several of whom are now active members in local congregations, particularly in the Haifa area. We have reached out to the prostitutes and seen how their lives have changed when the Gospel message of love and life took root in their hearts. Women who have been helped have become the best advertisement for this ministry.

Our *First Year of Life Program* provides pregnant woman with all the essentials for their newborn's first year, including cribs, changing tables, clothing, bottles, bibs, pacifiers, strollers, baby carriers and diapers all year round, just to name a few. In addition, we provide a monthly financial subsidy for a full year, by way of gift certificates redeemable at a local supermarket or pharmacy, to help supplement the needs of the mother and the newborn. All of this provides substantial assistance to the families, which often include more children than just the newborn. Beyond the first year, we also continue to supply diapers and clothing, as well as training underwear, as the child grows.

To the extent that we are able to do so, we make every effort to help the mother provide for the other children in her home, by way of helping to pay for summer camps and group activities, school supplies, clothing (twice a year), and painting/renovating their apartments (most of those whom we help live in apartments with various problems such as mold on the walls, leaky pipes, broken windows, and have landlords who rarely do anything to help). We have occasional volunteers who come in and clean, paint and repair, and do so with joy. Our desire is to also help pay for the dental care that many of the mothers desperately need but cannot afford. We have even arranged for circumcisions to be done for male children who were born as a result of our ministry.

“כי אנכי ידעתי את המחשבות אשר אנכי חושב עליכם” נאום יהוה “מחשבות שלום ולא לרעה לתת לכם אחרית ותקווה.” (ירמיה 29:11)

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jer. 29:11)

We conducted workshops and special sessions with both believers and non-believers, dealing with abortion, sexually-transmitted diseases, eating disorders and depression, as well as counsel for those suffering from post-abortion syndrome. We prepared and printed brochures relating to abortion, to sexually-transmitted diseases and abstinence. *To the best of our knowledge, we are the only organization in Israel to encourage abstinence before marriage. We also conducted seminars before special groups of young adults, including a seminar on singleness before a weekend gathering of young adult believers—this seminar drew the largest participation ever!*

In addition, we provide discipleship for women who are young in the Lord, some of whom come to us for counseling after they have an abortion and, through counseling, come to faith in the Lord Yeshua. It would be fair to say that most of the women who came to us throughout the year experience a daily struggle to survive, financially, emotionally, and spiritually. Most do not have someone with whom they are close, who can encourage them, or who will even remember their birthdays. We receive each woman as she is and try to show her the value she has as a unique individual whom God created. Often, we make the effort to pamper them a bit and pay for treatment at a hair salon, or arrange for a manicure or pedicure. These little things are tremendously appreciated by the women and do wonders for their self-esteem, which is usually close to non-existent. From our perspective, they are widows and orphans. We make every effort to treat each woman as a whole, and not just the part where the child within grows. We want them to experience satisfaction and not get the crumbs of life.

## Our Vision for 2016

Our vision is best expressed by what Job said (29:11-13): "For when the ear heard, it called me blessed, and when the eye saw, it gave witness of me, because I delivered the poor who cried for help and the orphan who had no helper. The blessing of the one ready to perish came upon me and I made the widow's heart sing for joy." Job speaks of the orphans and widows, the poor and the lost of his day. Afterwards, he makes the pronouncement: "I put on righteousness and it clothed me; my justice was like a robe and a turban." In verses 15-18, he describes how this justice came to him: "I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy and I investigated the case which I did not know. I broke the jaws of the wicked and snatched the prey from his teeth...!" In Chapter 31, he says he did not cause the eyes of the widows to fall and he didn't consider eating his morsel without sharing it with the hungry orphan (vs. 16-17). He then makes an amazing statement (vs. 20-22), that if he didn't bless the orphan and help the widow, then his shoulder should be separated from its socket. Job's words pose a challenge before us. His behavior was different and he lived according to a standard of what was right and just, totally different from those in the world around him.

During a visit to Yad Vashem this past summer, two statements from the area of those who were proclaimed as "Righteous Gentiles" drew our attention: "Whoever saves one soul, it is like he saves an entire world." and "What injures the victim is not the cruel oppressor, but the indifference of the bystander. There is always a moment it becomes a moral choice."

Our goal and the vision are to encourage for life, to help, to support, and to give to those around us. We seek God's face and desire that our prayers will line up with His will and thoughts so that we can give Him honor in all the works of our hands on this side of eternity.

## Needs & Prayer Requests

1. Help for needy families, most of whom are single mothers who made decisions for life and who barely survive on the basics of life.
2. A larger office to meet our expanding needs (we have been in the same location for the past 9 years). Alternatively, to renovate and repaint our present office.
3. As in the past, we pray for opportunities this year to speak live on radio, to be invited to speak at army bases and at various secular institutions, including all levels of the education system, and that the attendees would want to hear our message of life and hope for the future.
4. To publish a children's book that explains sexual development from a Biblical perspective for ages 4–12.

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5. **Immediate prayer need:** An orthodox, Jewish organization has invited Orit to come to a local synagogue and give a seminar on the sanctity of life and sexually-transmitted diseases. Please pray for wisdom and protection, and that more and more organizations and schools would open their doors to conduct seminars and hold workshops.
6. Generally, for increased financing to enable different endeavors. We have been blessed with seeing many women choose life over abortion. But, due to our commitment to provide for the baby's needs for the first year of life, our funds have essentially been depleted. Please pray for God to release the funds needed to meet **all** the needs of this ministry.

## Sharing with Others

We now have two websites! Our Hebrew site is: <http://hope4u.co.il>

We have a new English website that has an archives of our past letters and provides more information and pictures of many of the precious children who are growing up as a result of this ministry: <http://www.afutureandahope.org.il>

We would be happy to hear from you. If you have a comment about this Newsletter, please drop us a note (*Prov. 15:23*).

With thanks and blessings,

Marvin S. Kramer  
General Manager

If you would like to help support this ministry in Israel, you may do so by sending a personal or bank check in any currency to: **A FUTURE AND A HOPE**, 6 Derech HaYam, Haifa 34741, Israel. Checks should be payable to: **A FUTURE AND A HOPE**. Alternatively, a bank transfer can be sent directly to our account at Union Bank of Israel Ltd., Account No. 11594-08, Bank No. 13, Central Carmel Branch 083, IBAN: IL950130830000001159408, Swift Code: UNBKILIT, at 4 Mahanaim Street, Haifa, Israel. Donations are also possible through PayPal. Details in our website ([www.afutureandahope.org.il](http://www.afutureandahope.org.il)). We will acknowledge every monetary gift with a receipt.

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