



A FUTURE AND A HOPE

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MID-YEAR REPORT

The first half of 2016 has been both exciting and challenging. We saw many answers to prayer, as our activities have expanded and we are privileged vessels of clay that God is using for His glory. Among the many encouraging developments, we have chosen to present a few stories of women that touched our hearts and who, despite their difficult circumstances, chose life for their pre-born children. We conducted several types of seminars and workshops and are working on producing books for children, and one for expectant mothers.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. May you be filled with joy knowing that your giving and your standing alongside us has and is changing and saving lives.

New Life

Sarah is the 28-year-old mother of a young boy. She came to us in an advanced stage of pregnancy, suffering from physical and emotion abuse from her husband. Having another child at this point would only make things worse and she wanted to abort the child. She had already started the process of getting divorced from her husband. She was afraid, worried, and totally lacking in confidence. After two counseling sessions, she decided not to abort and shortly thereafter gave birth to a daughter, whom she named "Pri-El" (fruit from God). She continues to meet with us for counseling and expresses how both of her children are gifts from God. Despite finalizing her divorce from her abusive husband, she is devoted to providing for her children's need and is thankful for the little she has.



Rebecca immigrated to Israel from the Ukraine in order to enlist in the Israel Defense Forces. Today, she is 30. She met her future husband while learning Hebrew in an Ulpan and, after becoming pregnant, the two decided to marry. They now have two children.

One day, after leaving their apartment to take care of different matters, she was attacked and gang-raped by 3 men who lived in the same community. Severely traumatized by this event, Rebecca's marriage fell apart, resulting in divorce. Since then, she has been afraid whenever she needs to leave her apartment and suffers from ongoing trauma and constant panic. She has not filed a complaint against those who raped her; not only do they know where she lives and who the members of her family are—they have threatened her. After a while, she met another man, who knew and understood her problems. When she became pregnant by him, they decided together to choose life for their son, who was born in June, 2016. They have since moved to a totally different neighborhood. Rebecca continues to meet with us for counsel and support and is progressing in dealing with the trauma.



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

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Leah is a 30-year-old single mother, living with her mother, her sister who is in the IDF, and her brother, who suffers from mental disability. In addition, she is deaf. When Leah became pregnant, she was pressed from all sides to abort her child and came to us for counsel, after being referred by someone else who had come to us and been helped by our counseling. Leah quickly grasped the reality of the child growing in her womb and, despite pressure from all sides, she continued with the pregnancy and gave birth to her daughter at the beginning of July.



Rachel, 39, is a single mother of three children. She came to Israel as a foreign worker and became pregnant by another foreign worker. An acquaintance of hers suggested that she contact us "just to talk" before she decided to go through with her plans to abort the child.

After a lengthy session with her, Rachel said there were things she needed to think about. The next day, she contacted us and said that after speaking with us, she could never again think of having an abortion. She gave birth at the end of July.



Abigail is a religious woman in her 30's, who suffered years of physical and emotional abuse from her family. She was married for 10 years but her religious husband divorced her because she was unable to give him children. After the divorce, she met a man. Initially she did not know he was married. However, despite later learning he was married she continued to see him and eventually became pregnant by him—this although she had been totally convinced that she was infertile as a result of her barrenness in her first marriage. Keeping the pregnancy became a major issue:

If she gave birth to the child, he would be considered a "mamzer" (born out of wedlock) in Israeli society, with serious social implications and insults from the religious community, which would not provide her with any support. If she decided to terminate the pregnancy, she would be turning her back on what she considered to be a "miracle" in her life, after 10 years of a childless marriage. In need of wisdom and guidance Abigail received our phone number from a friend. She called, agreed to come in, talked, cried and poured her heart out to us. By the end of the day she had decided that the life within her must come forth. She recently gave birth to a son and named him "Meir-Chaim" (illuminating life).



Avital is 25. She worked as a prostitute and was addicted to drugs. Her family was extremely abusive towards her, both physically and emotionally. She met a man with a similar background and they decided to detoxify together. But, she needed help to leave her lifestyle. Like other women who were involved in prostitution when they came to us,

Avital needed to understand her value before God, who fashioned her in her mother's womb. Avital was encouraged in various ways and decided to change her life. She completely left prostitution and was filled with expectation, as she saw the relationship between her and her boyfriend blossom. Despite a multitude of difficulties, they married. Although Avital suffered from anxiety and fear because of her past, her husband was very supportive of her. Then became pregnant. Because of the medications that she was taking, prescribed by a psychiatrist, she was advised to abort the child. The couple came in for counseling together. Before talking with us, all the advice they had received was negative and condemnatory. They ran out of words to express their thankfulness and gratitude for the love, encouragement, and support they received when they met with us. They decided to keep their child and enrolled in our "**First Year of Life Program**," which provided them with important material items needed for their child. They shared with us that their involvement with A Future and A Hope changed their lives. Avital gave birth to a beautiful girl and

her husband has found a job with an employer who was willing to give him a chance to prove himself. They are both pressing on, grabbing on to the Lord of Life.



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Seminars and Workshops

Lives are also being changed through counseling and presentations. Earlier this year, we conducted several workshops, including one in a high school for young people ages 12–15, on the subject of sexual development. Some of those in the workshops expressed thanks for presenting the material in a way that is affirmative and encouraging and not degrading or humiliating.

We are also very thankful for answered prayers, as we were contacted by a local Messianic congregation in Jerusalem and asked to present a workshop for couples on the subject of educating children and teens about sexual development and healthy sexuality. It was well-attended. Despite the sensitivity of the subject, people spoke openly and candidly about personal and family issues and asked questions that many are often embarrassed to ask. A second session was conducted in June, dealing with addiction to pornography, its effects upon children and youth, how to recognize it and deal with it, and the Biblical foundation for sexual purity. It too was well-attended and there was considerable interest in the subjects. Many questions dealing with practical problems within the Body of Messiah were asked and answered. After the presentation, those in attendance split into separate prayer groups and many parents publicly repented of their sinful behavior and expressed a desire to change. Both workshops were very blessed.

First Year of Life Program and Humanitarian Aid

Our **First Year of Life Program** provides expectant mothers 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, and more. 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. This helps relieve the financial burden on the mothers (or parents), so they can concentrate on caring for their newborns, without the added concerns for material needs. This program provides substantial assistance to the families, which often include children other than just the newborn. Even beyond the first year, we follow-up with each family and continue to supply diapers and clothing, as well as training underwear, as the child grows. As of this writing, we have 18 new mothers who have courageously made decisions for life and are benefitting from the **First Year of Life Program**.

In addition, to the extent that we are able to do so, we make every effort to help the mother to provide for the other children in the house, by helping to pay for summer camps and group activities, school supplies, clothing (twice a year), and painting their apartments. Most of the women we help live in apartments that have mold on the walls, leaky pipes, broken windows, and more. All too often the landlords are not willing to fix anything. Hence our help in these areas is a new breath of hope for the mothers. We have volunteers who joyfully help clean, paint, and do repairs.

When funds are available, we also help pay for dental care; many of the mother's desperately need it, but since it is not covered by the HMOs, they can't afford to pay for it. We have even arranged for circumcisions of male children who were born as a result of this ministry. The heartfelt and tearful responses from the mothers encourage us even more to assist new families and to bless them for making decisions for life.

Marriage Preparation Workshop

In April of this year, we were approached by several young women, who asked if we would be willing to give a seminar on preparation for marriage. After praying about the matter, and considering the interest involved, we began a marriage preparation workshop for young women, which is conducted once every two weeks. Those who attend actively participate, with enthusiasm and thought-provoking questions. They receive instruction and are given assignments to search the Scriptures for answers to questions and issues and how to deal with situations.

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On the Horizon

By God's grace, in September, we will conduct two additional workshops for parents in the north of Israel, which will include participants from all segments within the believing community.

We are working to produce three books for the believing community in Israel for young children of different ages, to educate about sexual health and purity. The need for such materials was reinforced by the responses of parents to the seminar/workshops that were recently conducted. The books will include illustrations and considerable textual content.

We are also in the process of putting together a book of reflections and contemplation for expectant mothers within the Believing community in Israel.

Prayer Requests

1. For the health of our staff
2. For protection from spiritual forces of wickedness and jealousy
3. For open doors for effective service, including entrance to schools and congregations, to speak to parents and youth regarding holiness, sexual purity, pornography and the like
4. For financial provision to meet our commitments to the new mothers
5. For expansion of the marriage preparation workshop
6. For special financing to produce the children's books and a book for expectant mothers

Please visit our English website for updates and prayer requests ([Prayer & Praise Blog](#)).

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. We will acknowledge every monetary gift with a receipt.

To donate online in the U.S., Canada, and via PayPal, [click here](#).

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