

**HOUSE OF HOPE FOR THE BLIND AND  
MENTALLY HANDICAPPED  
BOX.27.BETHLEHEM.TEL.742325.FAX.740928  
WEST BANK ISRAEL**

**Christmas  
1995**

**Beloved in the Lord,**

Greetings in the most worthy name which is above all names, even that of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. How good to know that we are serving Him and to have Him as our faithful, unchangeable friend. How can we thank and glorify the Lord enough for His faithfulness and goodness that we experience daily as we labour in His vineyard in this work of faith? Surely His grace and providence that keep us going, yet at times we feel we are on a desert island, but in all we can say:-

*Though troubles assail and dangers affright  
Though friends should all fail and foe unite  
Yet one thing secures us whatever betide  
The Scriptures assure us "The Lord will provide."*

He is the one who gives us grace for whatever we face. Praise His Name. The home is full again with children, young people, middle aged and elderly folk. Some of the little ones returned after the holidays looking dirty, having pale faces and hair full of lice and others with scabies. Medical treatment and regular meals quickly got them back into shape.

The ages range from 7 to 90 years amongst the 56 residents and 19 day scholars, which makes one wonder where the priorities lie. We are sure that the Lord cares both for the young and the old alike. Each member of the HOUSE OF HOPE family is special in a different way, therefore the demand varies, each age group looking for particular interests and different services, but the Lord understands. We are grateful to those who have expressed a desire to sponsor a member of the HOUSE OF HOPE, there are many in the family who need such help.

In the fall we started the school year with only 3 housemothers, as others who have promised to come, for certain reasons didn't show up. The Lord knew the urgent need, and in a miraculous way He sent the needed ones to fill the gap. We thank Him for answering our prayers in this matter and trust that He will send the ones of His choosing for the next fall.

Opposition to the word of God is still very evident on many levels. The unsettled situation is still disturbing normal life. Although the media is full of peace treaties and talks, the poverty is increasing and bad living conditions are spreading. Restriction of movement is still imposed. Unemployment and high costs of basic commodities create fanaticism and violence. The hearts of men are failing them for fear of the future.

As this part of the world is going through a transitional period we do not know what to expect, what impact changes will have on us, or what regulations we will have to abide by. We cry out to the Lord to have mercy on the whole restless region throughout the difficulties brought on by the situation. We can rejoice in the knowledge that God hears and answers our prayers, and that through it all He is working His purpose out. Surely we have a reason for hope and hope for a reason. That hope is an anchor for the soul, safe and secure while the billows roll. He is the Lord of the past, present and future.

The raw material for the workshop is not readily available as it once was. It is more expensive and not easy to find. The students who attend local schools and universities are studying hard. Some of them will be graduating next term, therefore making room for others. Some of the elderly are really beginning to feel their age and are so thankful to have such a place where they are loved and looked after. The waiting list of 325 names is on the increase. We have already taken in a few new cases who are hearing about the love of the Lord Jesus for the first time.

The whole family is looking forward to the annual Christmas gathering. We are praying that the Lord will provide for this occasion, as several friends and blind married couples and their children will be joining us for the celebration. This season of course is a vivid reminder to mankind that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. May the child of the manger be born in the hearts of many who do not know Him as their Lord & Saviour.

We thank you for sharing this work with us through your prayers, concern and practical interest. Your friendship means so much to us. We take this opportunity to wish you and yours a blessed season and a fruitful 1996 in the Lord's vineyard.

With all our prayers and season's greetings from both old and young of the HOUSE OF HOPE family.

Yours in the Master's service

Michael G. David