



# Update . . .

April 2007

5767 Nisan



*Ceremony at the Western Wall on 22 March 2007.*

## **Giving Generously Generation to Generation**

*by Richard D. Weisskopf*

When I think of the Holocaust, I remember two sides of my family. One side was trapped in Nazi-occupied Europe with no army to save them. As far as I understand, nearly everyone from that side of my family was murdered. Another side of my family was in the United States. Most young American Jewish men, including my grandfather and uncles, fought in the war. They literally rescued those among our larger Jewish family who survived the concentration camps.

But there is another side to the Holocaust - the Israeli Defense Force (IDF). You see, they successfully staved off a Nazi-led invasion of the Holy Land. This success saved countless more lives. Over 2,500 years ago, Ezekiel prophesied the rise of the IDF from our graves (Ez. 37:1-14). It

is no wonder that the commemorations of the Holocaust, fallen soldiers and Israel's independence are within so few days of each other this month of April.

Before Passover I attended a ceremony at the Western Wall for 300 soldiers plus 150 fallen soldiers. As I looked out over the sea of young faces, it struck me that Ezekiel's prophecy was playing out right in front of me. It also struck me how these youth from all over the country would spend much of the next couple years involved in humanitarian work. Though many youth in the IDF qualify for humanitarian aid from the Love for Israel Relief Fund, the IDF engrains in them to put their neighbor's needs ahead of their own.

The IDF is the second largest military distributor of humanitarian aid in the world -

following the USA. For its size, though, the IDF is the most generous. As the Love for Israel Relief Fund brings aid to lonely soldiers and grieving families - we find them volunteering at orphanages, nursing homes, hospitals, etc. From Kiryat Shemona to S'derot we find them helping other poor and needy as we help them.

While we give from time to time out of our wealth, they give every day despite their poverty. The Love for Israel Relief Fund often finds itself helping the helpers. They are so focused on helping others - yet thank us when we should be thanking them!

This mindset engrained into the soldiers follows them the rest of their lives. Israeli adults are extremely conscious of helping their communities - often without realizing they qualify for similar aid. They pass this mindset to their children who grow up ready to join the IDF and help their neighbors. Thus, loving one's neighbors extends to the next generation in this society.

The Love for Israel Relief Fund wants to apply principles we learned from the IDF and extend a helping hand to the next generation. It is customary in Israel to honor lost loved ones at this time of year by giving to the poor and needy. We are targeting fatherless children and youth to help through our upcoming projects. As

always, thank you for all your support and encouragement in this important and holy work. Shalom from Jerusalem.

*Weisskopf inspects Passover food packages at a local synagogue being prepared for 1,500 impoverished homes in Jerusalem.*



*Photograph from the 29 Mar 07 back cover of B'Shava - the largest weekly religious newspaper in Israel. These food packages are ready for delivery in Jerusalem.*

**You can** donate online at:

<http://www.love4israel.org/donate.html>

Send checks to:

**Love for Israel Relief Fund**  
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 445  
Washington, DC 20006