

Comfort for the People of Shavei Shomron



a center of terrorism in Samaria. Traveling on the roads is hazardous: rock throwing and shootings are not rare and the Israeli cars on the roads are a minority.

On December 24, 2009, Rabbi Meir Avshalom Chai, 45, of Shavei Shomron, was killed in a drive-by shooting near his home. He was driving home after teaching a Torah in a nearby community, when terrorist overtook his car, and opened fire. Ten bullets hit him in the head and he was mortally wounded. Rabbi Chai was a father of seven and a teacher of Torah to children of all the surrounding neighborhoods. Everyone loved him and he was the guiding spirit in so many people's lives. The Bible Study room in Shavei Shomron where Rabbi Chen taught the children, where they once sang and studied, where he passed around prizes, treats and snacks... stands empty. The children refuse to walk in there. They miss him. Miss his smiles, his stories, his very presence.

Surrounded by the spectacular Samaritan Mountains, Shavei Shomron is just minutes away from Sebastia, biblically known as "Samaria", the ancient capital of the Kingdom of Israel. The name Shavei Shomron means "return to Samaria," a reference to the return to the ancient capital of this region. Established in 1977, Shavei Shomron has dedicated itself to making this vital area of Israel a center of productivity and religious commitment.

Shavei Shomron boasts an elementary school, several preschools, and a daycare center. There is also a Yeshiva - an institute of Jewish law and rabbinical seminary- which attracts many young families. With the Disengagement and the expulsion of Jews from their homes in Gaza and Northern Samaria, many families were found homeless. Shavei Shomron opened their community to many of the refugee families from nearby Homesh and Sa-Nur and provided them with their own mobile-home site, which ironically overlooks the ruins of their old homes. The community is trying to make their transition as painless as possible and to accommodate their many children into Shavei Shomron's existing facilities.

Since the outbreak of violence in 2000, Shavei Shomron's location has become increasingly precarious. The Oslo process created large areas of Arab jurisdiction in Northern Samaria, virtually isolating Shavei Shomron. Right outside the fence of the community is a heavy population of Palestinians and only five kilometers away is Nablus, which has become

The people of Shavei Shomron are feeling emptiness. Economically, too, they feel themselves collapsing. They have their own Emergency Rapid Response Team which, unfortunately, is kept very busy. All the members work on a volunteer basis but there are still expenses which must be covered to keep the program running. This past year CFOIC Heartland reached out and helped cover the monthly costs of their walkie-talkies and helped fund the salaries of the security guards who patrol the community all night, every night. But there is still an overwhelming \$29,730 deficit. The number is hard to absorb... especially along with the frustration that their security situation is still so fragile and vulnerable.

The ancient city and spirit of Sebastia was destroyed by ancient conquerors - but this will not happen again. The steady faith of the people of Shavei Shomron keeps them strong. Help these good people feel the comfort that comes from a true sense of security.

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED: \$29,730

To participate in this project:

Click Here: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=5BVLMRQN8ZCKU

~ Or mail a check with the project name in the memo:

CFOIC~ Box 50833~Colorado Springs, CO 80949 (US & Canada) ~ CFOIC~PO Box 752~Ginot Shomron, ISRAEL (All Others)