

# The Homeless Need Help Now

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

"Nowhere does the Bible say, invite the stranger to pray, but it does tell us to offer him food, drink and a bed." That statement by the great Rabbis of the Talmud says something important to us today about caring for the needs of homeless people.

There are an estimated 30,000 homeless men and women in New York and some two million so-called street people throughout the country. Increasingly, younger people in their 20s and 30s have joined the ranks of the homeless as a result of devastating unemployment and the lack of low income housing.

Through the compassionate initiative of such groups as the Coalition for the Homeless and the Partnership for the Homeless, major Christian and Jewish religious leaders have been meeting regularly with socially-responsible business, labor, and government leaders to develop an effective strategy for providing long-term affordable housing.

Mayor Koch's Housing Commissioner has recently designated some 1,000 apartments for rehabilitation in vacant buildings. Governor Cuomo has allocated about \$12 million for the homeless statewide. But there is still needed an estimated \$6 million from caring business leaders in New York City alone to make this humane program a reality.

That need must be underscored now, because most people think about the homeless in winter when people start dying before our eyes in the streets and subways. The time to begin providing the housing is now, during these summer months, before the crisis of the homeless becomes another human tragedy.

# ISRAEL BOND DINNER RAISES \$67 MILLION

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Israeli Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai told a gathering of more than 1,000 international Jewish leaders here that the proposed Mediterranean - Dead Sea Canal project will be completed and implemented within ten years. Modai's brief remarks concluded a gala dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in tribute to Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization and one of the organization's founders. The tribute was in recognition of his 40 years of service to Israel and the Jewish people. The dinner was sponsored by the Israel Bond Organization and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, whose international board of governors Rothberg chaired for 13 years. He retired from the post in 1981.

It was announced that \$63 million in Israel Bonds were sold. Of that total figure, \$36 million was in cash and \$27 million represented new commitments to

purchase Israel Bonds. Rothberg announced the completion of the Bond Organization's campaign to provide \$100 million in seed money for the canal project.

"Two and a half years ago we undertook to provide seed money for the project and we have met our goal," he said.

"The canal will be built, not now, but two or three years down the road when the equity financing has been put together." He said

the canal project has been put on hold because of other more pressing priorities, such as the costs of the war in Lebanon.

He said the \$12.5 million will be used for further feasibility studies and planning for the project.

# FRENCH VILLAGE HONORED



The French village of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, a haven for thousands of Jews fleeing the Nazis during World War II, was honored by Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion with the Roger E. Joseph Prize during ordination services of the college's New York School. The prize was presented to Professor Bernard Galland (Center) of Le Chambon by Burton M. Joseph (Left), a vice chairman of the college's Board of Governors, and Dr. Alfred Gottschalk (Right), president of HUC.

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish studies, trains rabbis, cantors, scholars, religious school educators and communal workers at its four campuses in Cincinnati, New York, Los Angeles and Jerusalem.



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