

May 16, 2008

Shabbat Shalom!

The words “proclaim liberty throughout the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof” still echo as an expression of freedom and equality from out of the pages of the Torah (in this week’s portion). While this phrase speaks of the jubilee year – a year of release from debts, land reverting to previous owners, and slaves/indentured servants being freed – it can also relate to our attempts to ensure that people in our country and all around the world have what they need to live, whether on a daily basis or in the wake of an emergency or natural disaster.

The recent cyclone in Myanmar devastated parts of that country. The earthquake in China has left many of the survivors in precarious situations and in need of assistance. The situation in Darfur continues to worsen, not due to natural events, but due to the continuing cruelty of the Sudanese government and other forces.

*Proclaiming a release today means offering our help to further relief efforts. The Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief (www.jcdr.org) is coordinating assistance for citizens in Myanmar and Darfur. The American Red Cross is accepting support for China earthquake relief (even as China is the focus of concern on other fronts) – **[for more information, please click here.](#)***

There may be other groups to which we regularly contribute that are also stepping forward to meet the need for aid.

Proclaiming a release goes beyond our response to these situations, as we strive to support all people in their quest for freedom and equality. May we continue to find ways to offer our assistance from our resources and from our hearts and souls.

**-- L'shalom,
Rabbi Larry K.**