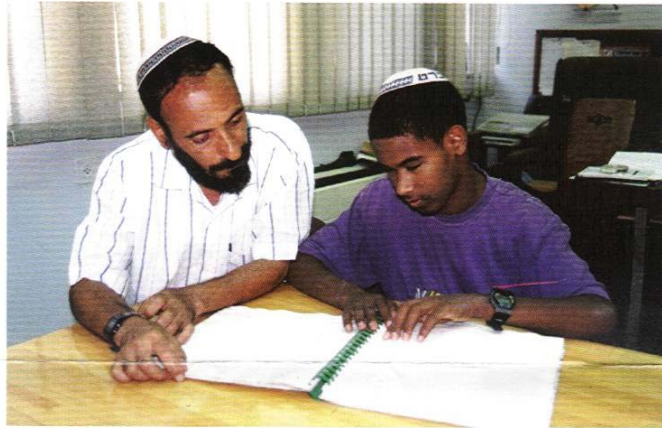


Biblical Scholar

All of the participants in the crowded auditorium nervously awaited questions in the recent Bible quiz. Kibret Asayo in his quiet way was very relaxed — and he had a right to be, as his knowledge of the Bible is indeed very rich. Encouraged by the cheers of the audience, Kibret won first place in the national contest, thrilling his classmates and teachers from the JIB, his family and all of the spectators.

"Kibret is a lovely student that inspires his fellow classmates as well as his teachers," says Shimon Azar, Kibret's teacher and Bible tutor. "When his family made aliyah from Ethiopia in 1991, Kibret was a 12-year-old and his knowledge of the Bible consisted of stories that were passed down from the elders. At the Institute, he drank in his studies of Hebrew, Jewish law and the Bible with relish and participated in the Bible quizzes at the JIB yearly. He also represented the Institute in a Bible workshop and quiz in Jerusalem, bringing home the second place trophy.

As Kibret's overall scores were so high, he was invited to participate in the Israeli national finals, and with his quiet determination, he won first place. The only concession made to his blindness was rather than writing down responses to each question, he replied to



Kibret Asayo (right) works with a braille text of the Bible under the tutelage of Shimon Azar

a contest representative who wrote down his answers.

Kibret plans to continue his pursuit of the study of Bible as it is said in the Book of Joshua: "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night..." When interviewed by the Israeli press, Kibret said he aspired to be like King David. In this academic year, he will begin studying in a yeshiva high

school while continuing to live at the Institute.

"I hope to see Kibret grow from strength to strength," adds his instructor Shimon Azar. "Working with him has been a real challenge, and we have seen a great deal of growth and development. While a farmer waits a year to reap his harvest, I feel the results of our work together right away."

Focus on Outstanding Employees

Sarah Hadar is somewhat of an institution herself. She has worked at the JIB for over 30 years, and she has educated scores of pupils to be independent successful adults. As a young student teacher in the early 60's, she was recruited to work at the Institute, and she has never looked back.

"Many of our students, both retarded and blind, had never been in any educational framework, but I always believed that before starting in the classroom, we had to teach them to look at themselves," explains Hadar. "We started with the basics of eating, dressing and caring for themselves."

In addition to years of work in the



Sarah Hadar

classroom, Hadar also developed her own method of teaching braille. She also founded the Pedagogic Center at the JIB which specializes in hands-on teaching equipment for the blind. "We needed so many teaching aids that we oftentimes made them ourselves," explains Hadar, illustrating puzzle maps, raised globes or tabs to identify and match clothing.

Hadar is due to retire this year, but she has been asked to stay on and work part-time in a special program. Certainly she will continue teaching with the love and patience which has characterized her way with students throughout the years.