



Ministry Association

Oświęcim

# Shalom

INFORMATION AND PRAYER LETTER

*...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. Mt. 25:40b*

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## Dear Brothers and Sisters,

From the 18th to the 27th of March we were in Ukraine for the first time this year. We are full of thanksgiving to God for this possibility. We could see how very necessary is the daily help made available through the free meals, especially because of the worsening financial situation caused by the war in the eastern part of the country. The retirement income of most of the people we help is about 200 zł (about 54\$). The high prices of products and medicine make matters tragic.

First we visited Shepetovka where we were able to spend time at the soup kitchen and give testimony to the salvation that's available in the Messiah of Israel, Yeshua, Who can cleanse every person from their sins. After lunch several people asked us for intercessory prayer. It gave us another opportunity to give testimony of the salvation in the Messiah Yeshua Who said; "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt. 11:28).



The soup kitchen in Shepetovka

After the meeting at the soup kitchen we visited 65-year-old Jewa, who has worked as a nurse and for the last 15 years has been a caregiver for older people in the Jewish community in Shepetovka. Her retirement is 1160 UAH (about 45 \$). Jewa suffers from arthritis in her fingers and needs to take medicine which is very expensive. She



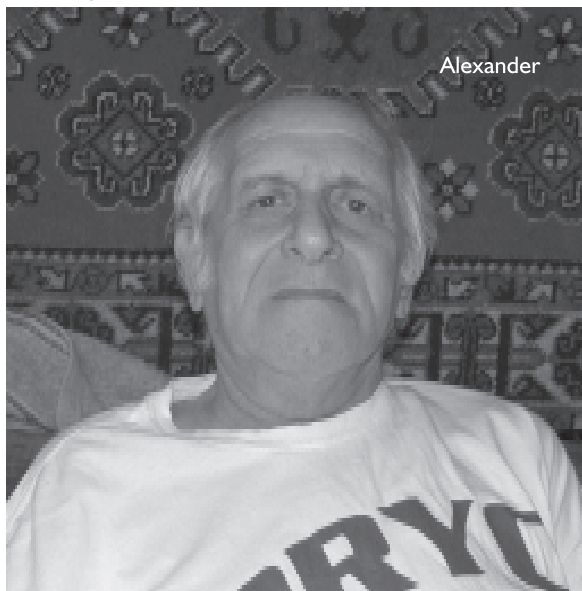
is grateful for the help she receives through the lunches. Because of this she is able to save some money for the medicine she needs. Jewa is a believer in Yeshua and meets together with Roza in a small prayer group.



Then we visited 62-year-old Dora. Her retirement is 1100 UAH (about 42\$). Dora has health problems connected with her liver, gall bladder and

digestive system. Like Jewa, Dora is grateful for the help she receives through the meals. We are praying for Dora's salvation. She has heard so much about salvation in Yeshua the Messiah, Who is waiting for each sheep of Israel. "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – just as the Father knows me and I know the father – and I lay down my life for the sheep" (Jn. 10:14, 15).

We also visited 67-year-old Liza and her 68-year-old husband, Alexander. In our letter from January we wrote about their difficult situation. We are grateful to God for his answer to our prayers for Alexander's health who is able now to sit up after having broken his leg. Alexander's wife and sons help him. Please continue to pray for his health, that he might soon be able to stand. Pray also for Liza's health and the salvation of the whole family.



Alexander

We are sorry to inform you of the death of El-wira, whom we often visited in Shepetovka. We prayed for her salvation and hope she left this earth reconciled to Jeshua.

As we talked with Roza and Zinov about the current situation in Ukraine they told us that people in Ukraine are becoming poorer and poorer and that the help they receive, in many cases, helps them to survive. They very much need medicines as well. Pray for Roza and Zinov, that the Lord would give them physical and spiritual strength in the difficult ministry they have faithfully carried out over the years. Roza and Zinov and all the people we met pass on their sincere greetings and many thanks.

The next place in our trip to Ukraine Vinnitsa where we visited the soup kitchen, together with our friends from the "Petach Tikvah" ministry in Holland. We were also at a Shabbat meeting which took place as part of the project "Synagogue". At this meeting we could together share the Word of God.



Meeting at the soup kitchen in Vinnitsa



Shabbat meeting

On the next day of our visit in Vinnitsa we visited 30-year-old Olga and her 50-year-old husband, Valery. Despite her young age, Olga is very sick. Her legs are severely swollen and are covered with sores that won't heal. Her husband has a problem with alcohol and needs to be freed from this addiction. Olga is a believer in Yeshua which gives her strength and hope in her difficult situation. Pray



Valery and Olga



to the Lord for her health and, above all else, for salvation and deliverance from alcohol addiction for Valery. “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (Jn. 8:36).



The next person we visited was 74-year-old Fryda, who is a believer in Yeshua. During the war her entire family escaped from Kazakhstan. Her retirement income is 1216 UAH (about 47 \$). Fryda has high blood pressure as well as problems with her joints and spine. Through the medical project which we carry out with the Shamash Foundation, she receives help in the form of medicine.

Next we visited 79-year-old Vitali, who lives alone. He believes in Yeshua and has committed his life to Him. His retirement is 1040 UAH (abo-



ut 40 zł.). He has problems with high blood pressure and the bad memories of an experience he had as a 30-year-old student. As a result of an accident he had while ski jumping he had a serious head injury and went through two operations. The first operation was in Kazan and the second in Leningrad. After the accident he experienced the next tragedy when his wife left him, taking with her their daughter. Vitali traveled to Vinnitsa where he worked as a technician in a restaurant. Pray for Vitali, that the Messiah Yeshua, Whom he trusts, would build his faith and comfort him.



Again we visited 78-year-old Raisa and her 48-year-old daughter, Lena. We described their situation in our last letter from Ukraine. As we know, both of them have lived through battles with cancer. Lena finished her chemotherapy not long ago. They need expensive medicine that they can't afford. They are able to receive this medicine through the medical project organized together with the Shamash Foundation. We see how necessary the medical project is. With God's help, we hope to expand this help in Vinnitsa and other locations. We want Raisa and Lena, together with another small group of people from Vinnitsa, to be able to travel in June to a sanatorium about 60 km. from Vinnitsa. These are people who are unable to travel to Poland to take part in the project “Remove the Stones” because of their poor health. Pray that we might be able to carry out this new project called “Sanatorium” each spring and, if we have enough financial help, a few times per year. The cost of a 11-day visit for one person is 540 zł (about 146\$).

It was our great joy to visit 83-year-old Grigoriy and 79-year-old Ludmila. Both are very sick. Ludmila has given her life to Yeshua and takes part in the Shabbat meetings as often as possible. During our visit we read together Psalm 90 which



speaks about a wise heart that is one with God; “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Ps. 90:12). When we talked about the forgiveness of our sins through the blood of Yeshua, Grigorij wanted to pray for that him-



self. After prayer we saw that his eyes were filled with tears. Praise the Lord! “I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent” (Lk. 15:7). During this meeting we realized how important are regular visits to such people, especially those who are alone and sick and can’t take part in other meetings. We need more born again people who will carry out this visitation project. Our brothers and sisters from the Shamash Foundation do this regularly but the need is increasing, not only in Vinnitsa but also in other places where the food parcels are distributed. Please pray about this situation; “I was sick and you visited me” (Mt 25:36).

The next day we visited 88-year-old Grigorij, who is battling with cancer. In spite of his sickness he is very positive and happy. He lived through the Holocaust as a child. We wrote about his experiences in one of our earlier prayer letters from Ukraine. He told us that he listened to a radio program not long ago where a woman called in and

began to accuse the Jews of many things, finally, that they crucified Jesus. Grigorij also called in to the program and said that the Lord Jesus, his mother and disciples were Jews. He then asked the question; “How can you pray to a Jew and at the same time have hatred towards his people?” Instead of gratitude for salvation which comes from the Jews (Jn. 4:22), the Jews are continually accused and because of this their hearts are closed to the gospel of forgiveness in their Messiah Yeshua. We read with Grigorij the 53rd chapter of Isaiah and talked with him about salvation in the Messiah Yeshua. Pray for Grigorij, who lived through the Holocaust and has experienced anti-Semitism throughout his lifetime, that his heart would be healed and that he might receive salvation in the Messiah of Israel – Yeshua.

Next we visited 75-year-old Gala and 74-year-old Leonid. Gala worked for 40 years as a tailor and Leonid worked for 50 years in a factory that manufactures electrical equipment. During the war the Germans buried alive his grandmother and grandfather in Niemirow. These terrible memories are still fresh in his mind. Leonid receives 1300 UAH (about 50,5\$) retirement and Gala 1196 UAH (about 46\$). Both of them take advantage of the lunches at the soup kitchen and are very grateful for the help they receive.

The next person we visited was 52-year-old Igor who is unemployed at the present time. Igor lived in Israel for 5 years but had to return to help his parents. He remained in Vinnitsa after their death. Pray for Igor’s salvation and for the possibility for him to return to Israel.



Then we visited 87-year-old Era, Marina's mother. Marina and her husband, Sierioza, take care of her. Era worked for 40 years as a surgeon. During our meeting she told us that she is an atheist. We showed her a short scene from the movie "Passion". She didn't want to watch it but later became very interested. We prayed during that time that the Lord would open her heart. Pray that Era would receive grace to repent and be saved.



We also visited 75 year old Anna whose retirement is 1200 UAH (about 46\$). Anna has suffered from a minor stroke. She has one daughter and two grandchildren. One of them, Sviatoslav, suffers from autism. Ann asks us to pray for him.



We also met with 67-year-old Ida and 73-year-old Leonid. All of Ida's relatives, from both her father's and mother's families, died during the

Holocaust. Leonid has been sick with diabetes for 15 years. He needs about 2000 UAH (about 81\$) per month for his medicine. That leaves him only 900 UAH (about 35\$) to live on. His son helps him to survive. Ida told us that they use only the cheapest products available and can't afford to eat meat. We thank the Lord that we are able to help them through the medical project to be able to buy medicine. Please pray for this family, for their health and especially for their salvation.



Later we visited 83-year-old Anna, who after working for 40 years as a manual laborer, receives 1300 UAH (about 50,5\$) retirement. During the war her whole family escaped to the Urals. Anna suffers from high blood pressure and has liver problems. Anna's daughter lives in Vinnitsa and her son in Belarus. Anna also receives help from us in the form of medicine through the medical project. Pray for Anna, that she might find peace through the Messiah of Israel, Yeshua.





The next day in Vinnitsa we spent packing food parcels which were distributed the next day in the Vinnitsa region.



The next day we traveled with food parcels to Gniwan, Wapniarka, Tomashpol and Jampol.

In Gniwan, after we distributed the parcels, we visited 71-year-old Natasha whose retirement is 1100 UAH (about 46\$). Natasha has problems with her legs and can't walk, she also suffers from kidney illness. She needs 500 UAH a month for medicine. She also receives help with medicine through the medical project.



Next we traveled to Wapniarka and after we delivered the parcels we visited 63-year-old Ludmila, who receives 1200 UAH (about 46\$) retirement. Ludmila's daughter lives in Wapniarka and her son in Israel. She had an operation three years ago to remove cancer from her digestive tract. Her husband died 2 years ago. Ludmila very much is in need of help to be able to purchase medicine. Pray that we would be able to help people like Ludmila through the medical project. Pray for Ludmila's health and especially for her salvation.



The next place where we distributed packages was Tomashpol. In Tomashpol we visited 77-year-old Zeni and later Masha, who lives with her husband, Fima.



We were able to visit 42-year-old Jura again. Jura receives 1050 UAH (about 41\$) for retirement. Jura still remembers how we prayed for his salvation during our last visit a year ago. He needs a special bed with height regulation to give relief to his caretaker who has spine problems. Pray for the funds needed so that we could buy such a bed for Jura.



Finally we left packages at Jampol where we met with 80-year-old Anna who lives with her 55 year old son, Misha. There is no gas or central heating in Jampol and people who live there have to use kitchen ovens and electric heaters which brings additional expense. Anna's main problem is being able to buy medicine, she has to use most of her income for this. Pray that we would be able to expand our medical help project also in Jampol. Pray for health and salvation for Anna and her son, Misha.



Next we visited 63-year-old El and his 65-year-old wife, Ala. Their son has left and lives in Israel. El worked as an electrician and his wife as a teacher. Together their retirement is 2150 UAH (about 84\$) which is all they have to live on. El suffers from high blood pressure and diabetes. This family also has problems with receiving the medicine they need. Pray for their salvation, that they might turn to God with their problems, He is able to help. "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (Ps. 121:2).



We also visited 64-year-old Jewgenia and her 75-year-old husband, Michail and their 29-year-old son, Pawel. They live together in a one room flat. Their son Pawel is unemployed and is continually looking for work. Let's pray also for this family, that their needs would be met in their Messiah, Yeshua. "Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from Him"(Ps. 62:1).



The next day we brought packages to Wapniarka and Niemirow. In Niemirow we met with pastor Igor who has an open heart and does much to help the Jewish people in his city. The message we shared a few years ago about the guilt of the shedding of innocent blood made a deep impression on him. Pastor Igor was also in Oświścim and took part in the "March of the Living". He has good memories of when we met at the selection point before the march to break bread with other pastors from Ukraine. Pastor Igor said they feel the guilt of that sin because many Ukrainians took part in the shedding of blood. He said that he teaches about this problem in his own church as well as other churches. This is a basic problem that is the cause of many of the problems they are now experiencing in Ukraine. In Niemirow we also met with our beloved Musia who told us about how much help she receives from Pastor Igor. As always, we were touched by her humility and hospitality.

On the last day of our visit in Vinnitsa we visited 78-year-old Lina, who worked for 46 years as a doctor specializing in allergies. She receives 1300 UAH (about 50,5\$) retirement. For one medicine she needs she has to pay 250 UAH per month. For this reason we are glad that she can receive help through the medical project carried out together with the Shamash Foundation.

Before our next visit we phoned to Tania, who told us that her husband had died that day. It was sad news for us and we were aware again that we need to hurry to people with help because they are gone so quickly. "Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away" (Ps. 90:10).

We visited the soup kitchen again and our brother Ruslan was able to share his testimony.



Next we visited 67-year-old Roza, who, because of her poor diet and stress, is unable to see with one eye. She said that God spoke to her and that after 50 years she finally gave her heart to the Messiah and King of Israel, Yeshua. This took place after she suffered a stroke. Roza is one of the first Jewish people from Vinnitsa who believed in Yeshua as her Messiah and Savior. She now goes to one of the churches in Vinnitsa. Roza didn't mention her needs to us but we know that she needs help with medicine and false teeth. With her monthly retirement of 1070 UAH (about 41\$) Roza can't afford these things. Please pray that with

God's help her needs will be provided for. "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

The next person we visited was 83-year-old Nina whose retirement is 2500 UAH (about 97\$). Nina also believes in the Messiah Yeshua and takes part in the Shabbat meetings.



The last person we visited was 76-year-old Rachil, a retired teacher whose monthly retirement is 1600 UAH (about 62\$). Her daughter lives in Israel and her son in Canada. During the war Rachil's father was in the army and she escaped with her mom to Uzbekistan. Rachil has health pro-





blems and it is difficult for her to walk. She needs 870 UAH (about 63,5\$) for medicine each month. She really needs to spend time in a sanatorium. As we have already asked, please pray that we would be able to carry out that project.

We ask you again to pray for the development of the medical project so that we could help as many people as possible. Pray for new financial supporters from our country and abroad. Above all, pray that the people we help and serve would believe in the Messiah and King of Israel, Yeshua.

After our visit to Ukraine we can see how, day by day, the situation in that country is getting wor-

se. This has an effect on these people who often are helpless in the face of the growing problems in their lives. In all of this we are grateful to God that we can continue to work together in this ministry of God's mercy. We want to pass on sincere greetings from all the people we met as well as greetings from us, the team in Oświęcim.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me” (Mt. 25:35,36).

***Shalom from Oświęcim***