



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,

In the month of July we again went to Ukraine to visit our dear ones whom we pray for and which serve together. This year marks 20 years since by the grace of God we started this ministry from supporting the Jewish community in Shepetivka. The most important for us was and still is for our dear ones to receive warm dinners. In Shepetivka is the first soup kitchen, which by the grace of God we started to support. Some of those who receive dinners remember the beginnings of this work. Starting from Shepetivka, this ministry expanded and extended to other places and reached many hearts. During these 20 years of ministry in Ukraine we see together God's faithfulness and His blessing. We can boldly say ... *Thus far the LORD has helped us.* 1 Sam. 7.12b

God Himself through us wants to fulfil His Word, wants to help us to comfort and bless His beloved people of Israel. His love through us is to be manifested in a practical way for Israel. God's love was manifested by the fact that many of our dear ones could hear the good news of their salvation in Messiah Yeshua. After this subsequent trip we saw again how many of these people need material and spiritual help. We believe that the God of Israel will continue to support and blessed us in His work of comforting Israel, for He Himself said: *Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.* Is. 40.1

After arrival to Vinnytsia on the second day we drove to Zhmerynka and together with Ema and her husband Valery we went to the

soup kitchen where 12 persons receive dinners. In the soup kitchen we could speak again about God and His salvation in Messiah Yeshua.



Next we visited 62-year-old Rita, a retired nurse who worked in her profession 32 years and her salary is 1700 hryvnia (60 Euro). Her only son lives in Dnepropetrovsk. During the



war the Germans shot some people from her family. Rita's mother and her sister were hiding at a woman's house whose son was a policeman. She did so in great caution and hid them before her son. Rita is very grateful for the help that she receives through the dinners and medicine. Let's pray for Rita's salvation, who is open and wants to listen about God's love.

Next we visited 72-year Lonia and his wife Raya, with whom we were for the first time. Lonia is the chairman of the Jewish community in Zhmerynka. We spoke with them about salvation in Messiah Yeshua. Lonia said that he



Raya and Lonia

feels the fear not to depart from God and his commandments given to Israel at Sinai. He also confessed that because of church history that is full of anti-Semitism, he cannot accept Messiah Yeshua as his Saviour. In this statement again we see how many Jewish hearts are still burdened from the bad testimony of the church and the need of God's Mercy so that their heart may be released from this burden. We believe that in this process of healing Jewish hearts the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob wants to use us as a church full of love for Israel. Let's pray for Lonia and Raya so that what hinders them from accepting salvation in Jeshua may be removed by God's grace.

We also went to Svieta and her family. Svieta is still taking care of her grandmother, who has had several strokes. Currently, Svieta needs 2,000 PLN (463 Euro) for her grandmother's rehabilitation. We commit Svieta and her family in our prayers ask for physical strength for her in the daily care of her grandmother.



Svieta and her grandmother

On the second day in Vinnytsia we caught up with Oksana and her sick daughter Aleksandra. Oksana at this time does not have a flat and stays at her friend's place in Vinnytsia because of the need for her daughter's constant medical care. In this situation Oksana needs help in finding a flat and paying the costs of its rental. Oksana spends her money on li-



Oksana and Aleksandra

ving and medical assistance for her daughter and cannot afford to pay for renting an apartment.

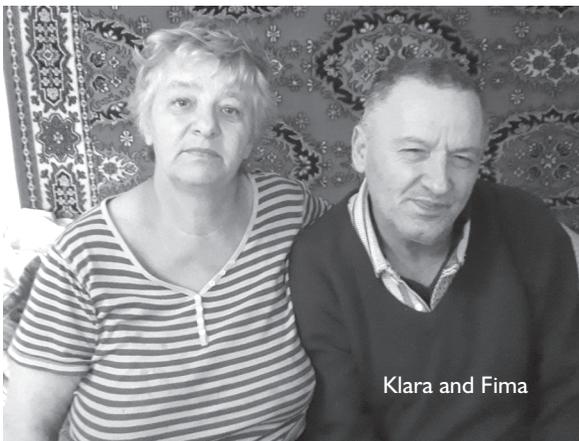
On the same day we went to Tulchin and met with Rita. Rita, despite her age and war experiences, still takes care of the Jewish community in this town. Rita wants to come to our

Rita



conference this year from 22.08 to 25.08.19 and tell about her experiences during the war.

Then we visited the family: 62-year-old Klara, her 72-year-old husband Jan and her 59-year-old brother Fima. We have written about this family many times in our previous letters. Klara underwent surgery to remove her thyroid gland and part of one kidney. Her pension is 1,400 hryvnia (53 Euro). She watched over her parents for a long time who have died, and now she takes care of her brother who, as a result of being beaten, suffers men-



Klara and Fima

tal illness. In all this we see that Klara draws her strength from Yeshua Messiah, whom she believes in with all her heart. Let's pray for grace for Klara and her family.

Later we visited Raya, Boris and their 36-year-old mentally ill daughter Ina. Raya is the daughter of the deceased now Haya, who

survived the Holocaust. Raja is very worried about her daughter, who has to undergo surgery. Let's bring in prayer the whole family and their physical and spiritual needs.

Then we met Rita and 8 people from community for a meal together, during which we also gave testimony of the saving grace in Yeshua Messiah.

The next day of our stay we went to Voronovytsya, where we visited Grisha, his wife Zhenya and their son Kola. Kola is temporarily living with them in the countryside to gain strength after heart surgery. Kola's wife and children visit him regularly. Zhenya said that God brought back Kola to our world. After a stroke, Kola has a paralysed left side. He also has a diagnosed clot and therefore can't sleep at night. During the time of our stay we were



Kola

not only able to testify to this family about God's love in Jeshua Messiah but also pray for them. Kola and his family are very grateful to all you for your prayers and generous financial support. Kola will still need rehabilitation and our intercessory prayers.

The next day we drove to Hnivan, where we met with 78-year-old Boris, which is the person responsible for the Jewish community here. Recently, his wife Marianna underwent knee surgery, after which she still feels pain. We can also see that Boris is in bad health and

needs treatment himself. Therefore we commit them in our prayers to Almighty God.

Together with Boris we also visited 85-year-old Bella and her 61-year-old daughter Julia. With the help from a caregiver from Chesed, their home is kept clean. Contact with Bella is difficult due to her poor hearing and health. However, we saw an improvement in her mentally ill daughter Julia, with whom we could talk. We entrust Bella and Julia to God in our prayers.



The next day we paid a visit to some people in Vinnytsia.

We visited a 95-year-old Fira who requires 24-hour care. Fira survived the Holocaust. Together with her brother David she was in

the ghetto. At the end of our meeting we prayed for Fira whose health condition is becoming increasingly worse.



Then we visited 88-year-old Ludmila who 7 months ago had a knee operation. Ludmila is a retired teacher. During the war, she and her family were evacuated. Ludmila's husband died two years ago. It still weighs heavy on Ludmila. She told us that it not good for a person to be alone. During our visits, Marina preached the gospel to Ludmila and together we prayed for her salvation and health.



We also went to 90-year-old Maria, who has two sons. Her husband died 6 years ago. During the war, she and her mother were evacuated to Orsk near the Ural Mountains. After



the war Maria worked in accounting. She has eye problems and problems getting around. Previously, she attended Shabbat meetings. It is a great joy for us that Maria gave her life to the Lord Jesus.

Then we went to 72-year-old Ida and 78-year-old Leonid. Leonid suffers from diabetes and complications related to it. Therefore, he needs to continually measure his level of insulin. He is grateful for the continual help he receives in the form of glucometer strips. After we returned home we learned that the Leonid broke his femur. He underwent surgery and is in the hospital. Therefore, please pray for Leonid of his state of health and his wife Ida.



Then we went to the soup kitchen which Nina runs. There we were able to share God's Word and give a testimony. The situation in Ukraine has still not improved and people who regularly receive a warm meal are grateful for the help they receive.



After dinner we went with Boris to the hospital to visit his wife Ema, who recently had an operation. Ema was very grateful for our visit and friendship. We commit continue to God Ema's health and also Boris.



Another person whom we visited was the 73-year-old Svieta, who due to of atheroscle-



rosis in one leg, has problems with walking. In addition to this, she needs hip replacement surgery. She also suffers from diabetes. Svieta very fondly remembers the time when she was in Poland for a rest. Let's pray for Svieta and her health, and above all for her salvation.



Shabbat meeting

In the evening we went to the Shabbat meeting, which is regularly held in Vinnytsia, which are led by Seryozha together with his wife Marina. During this meeting we shared the Word of God about the Holy Spirit who wants to have His temple in each of us. We also prayed for Seryozha and Marina for God's anointing to rest on them in this ministry that requires many sacrifices.

The next day of our stay we spent in the town of Bar, where together with Ina we visited some people.

Together we could meet 68-year-old Svieta and her 72-year-old husband, Michail. Their son and daughter together with their families live in Vinnytsia. Svieta's pension is 1,600 hryvnia (59 Euro), while Michail has 2000 hryvnia (71 Euro). Svieta has had cancer, she also has



Svieta and Michail

problems with stones on her right kidney. This family very much needs help in the purchase of medicines. Thank God, we can show them that help through the Shamash Foundation from Vinnytsia, with which we cooperate. Let's pray for this family's health needs and also for their salvation.

Then we visited 85-year-old Anna. Last year her 88-year-old husband, Serafin, died. Anna has been laying in bed for 4 years due to



Anna

a broken femur. During our conversation we saw how much bitterness she has in her heart towards other people. We asked her to forgive all persons who hurt her, and we also prayed for that. We commit Anna in our intercessory prayers.

Later we met with 83-year-old Edik and 63-year-old Svieta. Edik's condition requires constant care. During our visit we shared with them the Word of God from the gospel of John



Svieta i Edik

14:1–6 where the Lord Jesus says that in the Father’s house there are many rooms. We also prayed for the salvation of Edik and Svieta. We ask that you would continue to pray for them.

We were also at Ilia and Maria’s. A year ago Maria underwent a second operation because of breast cancer and chemotherapy. Ilia has eye problems which limits his functioning. Their



only granddaughter is studying in Israel, where she plans to live in the future. In Ilia’s and Maria’s hearts there are still unhealed wounds from the tragic death of their only son, a doctor, who was in a car accident. Let’s pray for physical health and comfort in their Messiah Yeshua for Ilia and Maria.

We also paid a visit to 60-year-old Valentina, whose son and daughter with their families live with her. Because of the many personal and family problems Valentina needs God’s healing. Ina, who was with us, invited Valentina to a Sunday meeting in her church. Let’s pray for Valentina so that she can establish a relationship with the local church.

Later, we visited 70-year-old Liza and her 72-year-old husband, Nicholas. Their daughter and her family live in the Bar, and their son lives in Israel. Please pray for the salvation of Liza and Nicholas as well as for their physical health.



At the end of our stay in Bar, we met with Ina’s parents and her family. Ina’s father, after his illness, requires constant treatment. Ina is



a believer and regular visits people from the Jewish community in the city. Let’s pray for God’s protection for her in this ministry that she is involved in.

The next day we visited more people from Vinnytsia.

One of the first people we saw were 80-year-old Raya and 86-year-old Zinow. In 2005, they both came for a rest in Poland, which we organize every year. Zinow has had 2 micro-infarctions and Raya has difficulty moving around due to leg pain. Raya summed it up in the following words: “Pain does not allow us to live”. This sentence says a lot about the situation of the people who together we help. Let’s pray for Raya and Zinow that their heart wo-

uld fully turn to God, who is the only one who can help them both physically and spiritually.



Next we were at 83-year-old Cyla who after the death of Grigory, became the chairman of the union of ghetto prisoners and Holocaust survivors. Cyla has many health problems and because of such requires care. Her only son together with his family live in Vinnytsia. During our meeting Cyla she very fondly remembered the time spent at a sanatorium in Ukraine which we organised. Thanks to the Shamash Foundation with which we cooperate, Cyla may receive help in the form



of medicines. We ask you to pray for Cyla's health, but above all, so that she can open her heart to the Messiah Yeshua, whose sacrifice brings forgiveness also for her sins.

We also went to 76-year-old Ala who last year in December broke the neck of her femur and had hip replacement surgery. Unfor-



tunately, after surgery Ala has problems walking and struggle with continuous pain. It's difficult for her to walk around the flat using crutches. Please pray for Ala who is a believer in Yeshua that the Lord himself would relieve her suffering because his wounds and bruises have healed us (Is. 53:5).

At the end of our stay in Ukraine we went to Shepetivka. 20 years ago in Shepetivka the Lord opened a door for us so that in a practical way we could demonstrate love for the people that God has chosen.

In Shepetivka we visited 72-year-old Liza, who at the end of June had a stroke. Her health is stable. We are grateful to God that the stroke did not cause any adverse effects in her body. In addition to other health problems Liza suffers from hypertension. During our stay Roza testified about the new covenant in blood of Yeshua the Messiah. She told her that Zachariah had prophesied that Israel would see these wounds one day and cry. She added that when the temple in Jewish hearts will be rebuilt, the temple in Jerusalem also will be re-



built. Also stressed that in recent times more and more people from the nation of Israel have come to know Yeshua as their Saviour and Messiah. Let's pray that this truth would reach Liza's heart and also many hearts of the nation of Israel.

We also met with 71-year-old Raya, who remembers well how in 1999 we visited her for the first time. Since that time Raya eats at the soup kitchen and now due to her health



situation, dinners are brought to her home. Raya has problems with the curvature of her spine and broke her arm two times. Raya is very grateful for the many years of help she has received, and most importantly, she believes in the Lord Jesus as her Messiah and Saviour.

On the same day we were also at the soup kitchen where we not only shared the Word of God and gave a testimony but we could also mention the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this soup kitchen and ministry for the Jewish nation in this city. During these 20 years we have seen God's faithfulness, for which we are grateful to God and to each and every one of you. Not many of those who remember the beginnings are left in the soup kitchen. But we know that those persons who passed away not only received help through dinners but also they heard the Gospel that is the *power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the*



*Jew, then to the Gentile (Rom. 1:16).* We are particularly grateful to God for Roza and Zinow who so faithfully serve with us in this work of God.

After the meeting in the soup kitchen we went to 59-year-old Zina, who together with her husband, daughter and 81-year-old mother Faina live in very modest conditions. We are very grateful to you for the financial help you have given to this family to renovate their home, for which Zina's whole family would like to thank you from the bottom of their hearts. During these visits we also were able to give a testimony and pray for the salvation of their entire family.



One of the last people we saw were 83-year-old Inessa and her daughter Marina. 3 years ago Inessa underwent surgery for cancer and now needs to receive regular medication. She is very grateful for the help she rece-



Marina and Inessa

ives in the form of medicines and dinners from the soup kitchen. Inessa also suffers from hip pain, which makes it difficult for her to walk. We entrust Inessa's health to the Lord and also pray the salvation of her and her daughter Marina.

We are grateful to Almighty God for having guarded our comings and goings and for having helped us in this ministry that we were able to do. Thank you, Brothers and Sisters, for faithfully standing together with us in this ministry. We believe that this ministry brings and will bring many good fruit for the Kingdom of God.

*Shalom from Oświęcim*