



Oswiecim December 2010

INFORMATION AND PRAYER LETER

"... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me"
Mathew 25,40

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Again, another year passes. Most of us draw conclusions: calculate, deduct, subtract, add, divide. What is time? This is an open-ended question. What do we know about it? That it flees. Teresa of Lisieux wrote, "My life is a shadow, my life is but a moment, which passes away and is no more. To love Thee, O God, I have only this moment, this day only. " Time is to be our challenge that we should face to use it the best we can to make out of it the most for the glory of our Lord.

Despite many tragedies that have repeatedly shaken our country, it is with gratitude in our hearts that we can say it was a good year for our ministry.

When twelve months ago we entered 2010, we did not know what it would bring us, but now with the approaching end of the year we are thankful to God for His protection, management and the strength to do the service, which we were entrusted in his grace. Despite many difficult situations, He would strengthen us, comfort and encouraged us to go on. Throughout the whole year we did not run out of means so that the dinners were served every day in the soup kitchens at Shepetovka, Vinnitsa and Mohyliv-Podil'skyy. Each month, 555 people received a package of basic food in Vinnitza and in 13 villages in Vinnitsa district.

The Lord has opened before us new opportunities to minister in collaboration with members of the Messianic congregation in Vinnitsa, which resulted in creating the Shamash foundation, which is our partner in the project of medical help. Thanks to the help of the Foundation and its volunteers in this passing year 25 people received medical assistance specific to their needs. "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21.

We are grateful to God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for the fact that the whole time we were able to reach out to the sons and daughters of His people, bringing them not only the specific material help, which extends their earthly life, but primarily spiritual help, which is in their Messiah - Yeshua.

When we write this letter, the feast of Chanukah is still continuing. It dates back to the time of the Second Temple, when in the second century BC, in Israel Antioch IV of the Seleucid dynasty reigned. Antioch initiated the persecution against the Jews, forbade them to practice Judaism, ordering them to worship the Greek gods. Finally, he introduced to the Temple the statue of Olympian Zeus and began to practice worshipping right there. At a temple altar he sacrificed a pig, mixing its blood with the blood of the murdered priests. For Jews, this situation was not acceptable. They started an uprising against the Seleucids headed by Judas Maccabeus, who led them to victory. It was him who cleansed the Temple, and re-consecrated it. When Judas Maccabeus began to organize the desecrated Temple he found only one clean vessel containing oil that could be used to light the menorah. Unfortunately, the vessel was so small that the oil would last only a day. The amount needed was the eight day portion, since to produce new clean oil would take as long as that. **And then a miracle happened - a small dish of olive oil burned for eight days.** To commemorate the Chanukah miracle we light chanukiya, the eight-candle chandelier for the holidays.



There is much wonderful and profound symbolism and significance of this feast, but we want to focus on its miracle. Chanukah inclines us to reflect on what is the miracle and God's presence in our lives as we serve Him. The first miracle, which occurred during Chanukah is the miracle of faith and trust in God. After all, the one who first lit the menorah lamp knew that, according to human knowledge and logic, it is enough just for one day. There wasn't enough time to prepare kosher olive oil and so menorah light would be gone forever. The newly initiated sanctity of the place would end

immediately. He could give up and tell others: "It makes no sense." He could, but he did not. He lit the lamp, because he believed that God was with them and knew the solution to this problem. Actually He already acted! **"I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy"** Ps. 116:1.

When we ponder the miracle of this feast, we are grateful to God for the immeasurable number of miracles in your and our lives. With gratitude in our hearts we see how God's grace and the oil supply is still present in this service and miraculously replenished and multiplied by Him.

We want to give glory to God for His provision and opening up new opportunities for service. This is made possible by God's grace, but also thanks to your prayers, that He heard, and your finances, which He multiplied and used to enable us to reach the "sheep of the house of Israel" who are in dire need of material and spiritual help. All of this was possible even though it goes against human logic, reasoning and economic "predictions" of our country and in the world. The Lord once again showed us that he directed and guided our provisions by a different "economy" according to the principles of His Kingdom. For this reason, in the past year we have witnessed another miracle of multiplying the finances of our ministry. This miracle took place with the participation of all of you who regularly supported willingly heartily for the things of the Lord in this ministry.

Whatever the situation we may encounter this new year, we will move on with faith, hope and confidence in anticipation of the great and wonderful things from God.

We want to continue this ministry of mercy in the soup kitchens in Shepetovka, Vinnitza and Mohyliv-Podil'skyy. We would like to continue to reach many people through food parcels in the towns and villages in Vinnitsa region. We would like to contribute to the development of medical aid project by the Foundation Shamash in Vinnitza.

We also pray for broader commitment in the area of teaching ministry in our country, so as to further pursue our vocation of service to the Body of Christ at home and abroad. A question arises: Is this at all possible? With faith and hope in God's direction and provision we want to say: Yes.

In the depths of our hearts the Lord has put a desire to encourage you to actively engage in this ministry. If you ask yourselves the question: "How can I do it?" Most of all, each one of you can bring this ministry daily in your prayers. Another form of active co-operation may be inviting us to your community / congregation. We are ready to serve on the topic of Israel and to share what the Lord has put into our hearts. Again we thank you for your interest in this ministry, prayer and practical support given to us in this ministry.

The end of the one that passes away always gives the start to the new one. Ending the old year, full of faith and quiet hope, we look forward to new days ahead this coming year. May God graciously look at your and our plans for the next year. Let them fulfil his will. May He Himself through Yeshua - the Messiah of Israel abundantly bless and grant him peace, to you, in your life and ministry for Him.

In the name of Shalom Ministry Association in Oświęcim

Piotr Borek