



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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...remove the stones... 2017



## Dear Brothers, dear Sisters

*For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose. Phil. 2,13*

Fulfilling of this verse can be seen in our ministry from the very beginning through all the projects that we realize. We are grateful to God for the next project “Rest” for 10 people, including 6 people from Haifa in Israel. Project “Rest” is also called “Remove the stones” project based on the verse from Isaiah 62:10. This year we carried out the project for the 15<sup>th</sup> time and it took place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> till the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who loves Israel and made his eternal covenant with Israel, wants us to “remove the stones” out of the way of His people and pave their way. These stones are all kinds of experience of rejection, hatred, anti-Semitism, the pain and suffering that the people of Israel experienced throughout history and personally in their lives. Unfortunately, we can see how, through improper teaching and attitude, the church contributed to the fact that these stones are still on their way. But now God through His mercy gives us the opportunity to remove these stones with love and pave their way to accept their salvation in Yeshua the Messiah. By implementing this project and showing them mercy in our service in Ukraine, we want Israel to be saved and Messiah and Yeshua, the King of Israel to return, because He said: *For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”* Matthew 23:39

For the first time we conducted the project in Kołobrzeg. We got to know the history of this city one year ago and we learned that Jewish community made a significant contribution to the development of the city as a health resort. Jewish doctors discovered the healing properties of the balneology in the process of treatment and rehabilitation. Before the war Kołobrzeg had a German name, Kolberg as its territory was the part of Prussia. In 1940 German Nazis deported the whole Jewish community to ghettos only to kill them later, in 1942 in Belżec extermination camp. Before that Germans destroyed the synagogue and two Jewish cemeteries. Currently, one of the cemeteries is the lapidary with a memorial plate and a few matzevahs in the shape of the Star of David. Tourists from all of the world, and especially from Germany, come to Kołobrzeg.

Deep in our hearts we wanted to commemorate and express our gratitude to God for the Jewish community in Kołobrzeg, which contributed to the development of the city as a health resort, so we invited our group to spend some relaxing time in a health clinic. It turned out that our health clinic called “Muszelka” was located near the lapidary, where the Jewish cemetery used to be.

During their stay in Kołobrzeg our beloved received daily treatments and in their spare time went for long walks along the seaside and enjoyed the fresh air. In the evening we spent time together studying the Word of God, and on Fridays we organized Shabbat. We were joined by a married couple, Anna and Sioma, who came from Germany. We

learned that they originally come from Zmirinka in Ukraine and emigrated to Germany over 20 years ago. It turned out that we had mutual friends in Zmirinka. Anna and Sioma called our meetings “our synagogue”.

At one of the meetings our beloved expressed the desire to pray together for forgiveness of their sins and acceptance of Yeshua as their Messiah and Savior. It was a great joy for us that the Word of God was preached and bore the fruit in the form of salvation of their hearts.

During our stay we went on a trip to Dobrzyca, where we could enjoy beautiful gardens. One day after dinner we had a meeting near the lapidary, where he thanked God for the Jewish people, who were a blessing for the city. During this meeting one young couple from Germany joined us.

After the end of your stay in Kołobrzeg we came to Kraków, where we visited the Old Town and Kazimierz.

Then we went to Oświęcim, where we learned the history of this city and visited the Jewish Center and the former German Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The next day we went to Wisła Czarne, where believers from the local church invited us and served us a tasty meal made of mutton. Hospitality of our brothers and sisters from this church, combined with their love will remain unforgettable experience in the hearts of our beloved.

During our last meeting we received a lot of words of gratitude for this stay in Poland, and this showed us how many stones were removed from their lives.

But the greatest joy for us is that during this stay our beloved experienced the joy of salvation in their lives.

We are grateful to God for your prayers and support in this project. We also thank our brothers and sisters from Aktion Verzicht from Switzerland, who helped us realize this project and also support us faithfully in this ministry. We are also grateful for the support of our Sisters from Darmstadt, Germany.

***Shalom from Oświęcim***