



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

tel. + 48 338430667 • www.shalomoswiecim.pl • e-mail: hope@pro.onet.pl

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March OF THE LIVING 2019



On 2 May, we participated with a group of several dozen people in the annual March of the Living. Together we walked three kilometres connecting Auschwitz with Birkenau, carrying a banner with the blessing from the book of Numbers 6:23–27. In this way, we blessed many Jewish groups who came from around the world on International Holocaust Remembrance Day to commemorate the Death Marches, which consumed at least 250 thousand Jews.

Each March raises huge emotions in the hearts of all participants and it was also the same this time. Memory, sorrow and tears are still present on this site called often the Golgotha of the twentieth century. This year's March was dedicated to the heroic memory of the residents of Thessaloniki and Zakynthos Island who endangered their lives to save the Jewish community. This March was also held in the jubilee year of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War 2 – a war that became the greatest drama of humanity in the history of the world.

Because of everything that has happened here, because of the spilt blood of innocent people who still cry out along with the voice of Abel to God, we could not miss this March. We comforted the people of God, also feeling consolation.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Lord will keep you from all harm-he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Psalm 121:7-8

We are grateful to the Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for the fact that during the last trip to Israel, he guarded our coming and going. We wanted again to visit our friends and establish relationships with new people.

In Jerusalem, we met with our sister Avivah with whom we talked about the situation of believers in the Messiah of Jews in Israel. Please pray that Jewish believers in the Messiah Yeshua in Israel would continue in unity and preach the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The same day we met with Hana and Zeev, who also live in Jerusalem. Last year for the first time we met with Hana at a conference during which the concert "Hope" was performed by the Korean pianist Aija Kim. Before the concert, Hana presented the history of rescuing four Jewish girls by the Małkiewicz family. One of these girls was Hana's mother who had died. At their apartment in the eve-



Meeting with Hana and Zeev

ning during dinner, we could speak of God's covenant with Israel and of their Messiah, Yeshua. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit would open their eyes to this truth about salvation.

Next, we went to Jaffa, where we also met with people who come from Poland. Among them were Ada and many other people. Some of them asked us questions like what motivates us to come to Israel. In our response, we indicated our millennium history and above all

on their Messiah, Yeshua, who is their and our Saviour. Let's pray for these hearts that this truth about salvation in their Messiah, Yeshua will reach their hearts.

The next day we met 88-year-old Amos. It just so happened that he sat on the bench near where we were staying. Amos told us about his life and about how he fought for the independence of Israel. His wife's parents came from Poland. At the end of our meeting, we asked Amos to read at home Isaiah chapter 53.



Meeting with Amos

Later, we visited Dalia and Menasze who came to us from Rishon LeZion. They were both last year at the "March '68" project. From that time with them and the other project participants, nice relationships have been formed. During dinner together they mentioned the



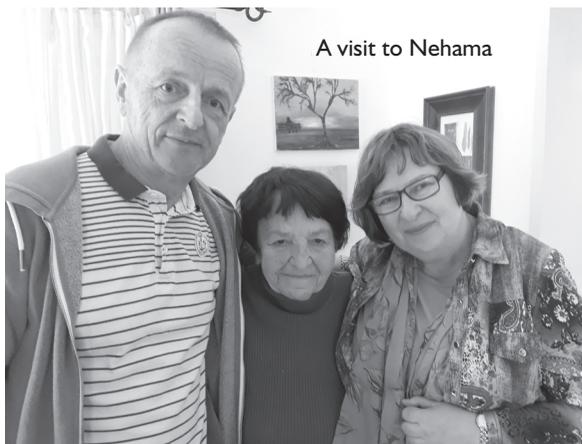
Dalia, Menasze, Roman and Ula

fond memories of their stay in Poland and expressed a desire to come to Poland again. Dalia is very open and wants to read the New Testament. At that time, we could also speak about salvation in Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel. Let's pray that the desire to read the New Testament would be fulfilled in Dalia's life and above all that the Holy Spirit would revive this word in her heart.

Then we visited Michal, who is the daughter of Naomi. During the war, Naomi was hidden in various places by Władysława and her family. In June, the ceremonial awarding of medals of the Righteous Among the Nations will take place in Krakow, among others for Władysława's family of, who comes from Zator.

The next day during a conversation with Ilana from Haifa we heard about the death of Dzia (Judith). We decided to call her sister Ester to share our condolences. During our conversation with Ester she said: "Praise God for everything, for a new day and for the sun to shine." At the same time, she was very grateful for our memory and friendship.

The same day we went to Herzliya, where we visited 85-year-old Nehama who comes from Janów Lubelski. Her husband Hanina, who she had lived together with for 60 years, came from Zamość. He died two weeks before our meeting. Nehama told us about her life which was full of suffering and pain. During



the war, her father was killed by a band of Poles, which leader was called "Sausage". Together with her mother, sister and brother they

escaped to the forest. They hid in the woods and later lived in one of the villages with friendly hosts, where the mother sewed and helped in the work around the home. But after a short time, they again had to flee from Sausage's band. When Nehama with her brother went for bread, they heard shots and had to run. At that time her mother was shot and her sister died from a grenade explosion. Later, Nehama hid in a farm and took care of cows. Her brother also hid, but on another farm herding cattle. On Sunday, when the hosts were in the church, the Germans made a raid at the time when Nehama began to milk the cows and that is what saved her. Next, Nehama hid with a woman who had escaped from the ghetto. Nehama's husband, Hanina, had a grandmother who was hidden by Janek. But after the war a tragedy occurred, when her grandmother was killed by Poles. In Godziszów, Nehama's cousin was hiding with Aniela, and they married each other after the war. However, they experienced another tragedy, because her husband was also killed by Poles.

After the war Nehama travelled to Kraśnik and as an 11-year-old girl helped wounded soldiers. Then she lived with farmers and helped them in their work. When the farmers were at church, a fire broke out. Nehama took two cows to the forest and in this way saved the cattle. When the farmers returned, they said: "You saved us, and we want to adopt you as our daughter". However, this never happened and ultimately Nehama ended up in an orphanage in Lublin and then in Pieszyce where her brother, who returned from Germany, found her. They also met their cousin Roman, who was in Wrocław. Together with her brother they went to Germany and in 1947 to Cyprus and in 1948 they came to Israel.

Nehama's husband, Hanina and his family were in the evacuation and thanks to this their lives were saved.

After hearing this story, we took Nehama by her hands and said we were grateful to God for the Poles who helped her, but we ask for forgiveness for what she and her family experienced from the wicked people of our nation.

Let's pray for Nehama that God Himself would comfort her heart and that she could experience salvation in Yeshua the Messiah.

That same day we went to Kibbutz Degania where we stayed with our friend Tamara. In the evening together with Tamara we met in the apartment of 89-year-old Shlomo Yar-



den, whose history of surviving the Holocaust was documented in the film entitled "Shlomo Yarden's Polish birth". This film can be viewed on the Internet.

During the war, Shlomo and his entire family were taken to Umschlagplatz, where they waited for transport to the camp. But because of a lack of a train, they were taken back to the ghetto from which Shlomo escaped with his brother. Hiding, they went from village to village near Sochaczew looking for work and food. After a short period of time, the Germans caught three Jewish boys in Kozłów Bi-



skupi and among them was Shlomo's brother. Peasants from the village asked the Germans not to kill these innocent children but the Germans brutally executed them. At night Shlomo went to the place the three children were massacred and took from there his brother's body and buried it in a location that only he knew on the banks of the Bzura River. When he had the possibility, he went to church and prayed. As he stated, prayer helped him and gave him strength. After the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto, it was increasingly difficult to survive. With the help of a friend, Shlomo received from a priest a birth certificate with the name of a living Polish peer whom he met many years after the war.

After the end of the war in 1947, Shlomo received permission for exhumation and moved the body of his brother to the Jewish cemetery in Sochaczew. Later, Shlomo decided to move to Israel, where he lives with his family.

Shlomo still has fond memories of Poland and at his request friends sent him a book with the prayers that had accompanied him in his childhood. Full of emotion, Shlomo showed us this prayer book.

During our meeting, Shlomo often stressed that prayer helped him very much. This deep experience remained at his heart. Let's pray for Shlomo, that faith in God and salvation in Yeshua would be even more established in his heart.

The next day we paid a visit to 87-year-old Hezi, who together with his whole family also lives in Kibbutz Degania. Hezi is a retired professor and comes from Kraków. During the war, his whole family escaped to Siberia. After staying in Siberia for a year and a half, they went to Buchara. At that time his parents died as a result of drinking contaminated water. Before their death in 1942, his father gave him to the Anders Institute, where Hezi, as a 10-year-old boy, ended up in a camp with 700 children, but the Almighty God, who is the father of the widows and orphans, cared for him (Ps. 68:6). At a later time, together with the troops from Ander's Army, they were transported to Teh-

ran, and then by boat to Pakistan, from where they got to Egypt, in 1943 they reached Atlit that was part of the area of the Mandate for Palestine controlled by the British.



Ula, Hezi and Tamar

Finally, Hezi arrived at Kibbutz Degania. In his memory still remains all the war-related actions connected to the creation of the State of Israel. Hezi with his wife Ester have four children and nine grandchildren.

In Kibbutz Degania we met with Josi, who also comes from Krakow. His parents during the war fled to Tarnopol and then in 1943 were sent to Siberia. From Siberia, they were sent to Kazakhstan, where in the former town of Jambyl his sister was born. In 1946, the whole family returned to Krakow, where Josi was born. When Josi was ten years old, due to persecution by the communist authorities back then and anti-Semitic incidents, they emigrated to Israel. Together with his wife Riwka and the whole family they live in Kibbutz Degania.

The next day with Tamara we drove to Kiryat Haim, where we participated in a meeting of people that we hosted in Poland as part of the March 1968 project. Everyone very pleasantly recalled the time spent in Poland and



Meeting with friends in Kiryat Haim

expressed their gratitude that remained in their hearts. This time spent in Poland not only resulted in friendships but also family ties.

The next day, at the invitation of Sara and Jack we went to Kfar Tabor – the place where they live. Haja and her husband Tamir also came to the meeting. When we drove together to the top of the Mount Tabor, we saw that they wanted to show us what is valuable to us Christians. During our conversation, we were able to share with them the Gospel of salvation in Yeshua the Messiah. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal to them this message in their hearts.

Then later we went to the town of Kiryat Bialik, where we meet with Miriam, with whom we have been friends with for many years. When we were at Miriam's place, we learned that this night Rysia died, who during



Meeting with Miriam

the Holocaust was with Miriam in the German death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. During the time of our stay, again the question arrived: "Where was God during the Holocaust?" We see that in many hearts this tormenting question remains a painful and unhealed wound. Let's pray for Miriam and other persons who survived the Holocaust that God himself would heal their wounds and reveal to them love in Messiah Yeshua. *But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds, declares the Lord, because you are called an outcast, Zion for whom no one cares. (Jer. 30:17).*

At the end of our meeting, we said that we want to pray for Miriam and then we saw her spirit revive and a smile appeared on her face.

In the evening we met with Ilana, who also survived the former German death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. Despite her old age, Ilana cares for her 98-year-old sister.



Ula and Ilana

Her sister and her sister's husband in Lviv were enlisted in the Red Army and in this way survived the Holocaust period. Three of Ilana's sisters survived the Holocaust. Her father died in Buchenwald in 1942. Ilana remembers all the difficult experiences related to her stay in the camp, particularly the death of her mother and two little sisters. When she was in the camp, she was in the group that were herded into the gas chamber, but at one point instead of them they took Jews from Hungary and this is how Ilana and other people from this group escaped death. For Ilana, even up to now all these memories are great wounds in her heart. In her mind the same question still appears: "Why did God allow all of this?" We see that despite the fact that these people came out of the Holocaust, the Holocaust has not come out of them. Let's pray also for Ilana and other persons who still need healing and salvation in Yeshua, the Messiah.

The next day we tried to call Michal who resided in Eilat a few times. Later, we learned that unfortunately, Michal had died.

Then we visited the messianic community in Carmel, attended by persons who in previous years participated in the "Rest" project in Poland. We met with these people in the afternoon and we spent a very nice time together.



The Messianic Congregation at Carmel



Meeting with friends in Haifa

This year we are planning to again invite another six people from Haifa and also six people from Ukraine for an autumn rest in Poland.

Then we spent time with Swieta who lives in simple conditions but is very pleased that she left Ukraine to go to Israel. In the same



Ula and Swieta

building lives her 83-year-old sister Basia, who we visited together with Swieta. Basia came to Israel from Magadan in 1997. Her son and daughter with their families also live in Haifa.

In 2016, Basia broke her femoral neck and underwent surgery, and now she walks with the help of a walker. Basia with Swieta atten-



ded the messianic congregation, thank to which they could hear about God. At the end of our meeting, we prayed for Basia and Swieta for them to continue in their faith in God and fully trust Him.

The next day, on the road to Ashkelon, we stopped in Netanya and visited 96-year-old Michal. Unfortunately, last year due to dizzi-



ness and a fall, Michal injured his head and had to stay in hospital. After this event, the family decided that Michal needs constant care. Let's pray for Michal that his heart would be fully opened to salvation in Yeshua, the Messiah.

In Ashkelon, we met with Edik and Tamara who recently returned from Ukraine where meetings were organised in the Jewish com-

munities of different localities, which we wrote about in the previous prayer letter from Ukraine. Edik and Tamara were very grateful to God for the time spent in Ukraine and in the future would like to go there again.

In the evening we participated in a Bible & prayer group meeting which meets every week in their flat.

That night two missiles from the Gaza Strip were launched but intercepted by the Israel Defence system. This was another attack from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory. This experience shows us how Israel is very much threatened by Hamas and other Islamic terrorist organizations.

The next day we met with Ela and Drora who live in moshav Shahrar. It was a very nice time spent in their home. Earlier Eli and Dro-



ra met with us at Kiryat Haim. Eli comes from Dzierżoniów and speaks Polish very well. Together with Drora, they remember the time spent resting in Poland last year as part of the "March '68" project. Together with Eli, we saw a flower farm in this moshav and a grape plantation.

Then we went to Rishon LeZion, where we met with Michael, who is the leader of a Messianic congregation and which we work with through the foundation called "Living Water For Free" that mainly helps needy persons from the former USSR. This help is above all given to those who survived the Holocaust, widows and orphans, and broken families.

During our stay, together with Michael and Larisa, we visited some people in Rishon LeZion.

One of them was Zina, who was born during the war in 1942. Zina told us the story of her life. Before the war, her parents lived in



Bessarabia. In 1941, pogroms of Jews took place there. In the beginning, the Russians came and after that Germans. Zina's parents thought that the Germans are good and decided to remain. When the Germans entered, their neighbours robbed them and gave them over to the Romanians. The Romanians marched them away, killing some of them on the way. When they stopped in some towns, the local people robbed them of even their clothing. In the town of Karishkiv in Ukraine, they herded them into farm buildings. Zina's mother sewed and for this she could get some of the bread and her father worked as a baker. Zina's mother at the time was pregnant with Zina, which she carefully hid. In January 1942, in a temperature of -40 degrees Celsius, Zina was born in the cowshed on manure. Her father packed her into a sack bag and hid her in a pile of wood near the stove. The next day, as a result of a fire, the wood caught fire, and the tiny Zina was severely burned. She had extensive wounds to her back and legs which were treated with dog fat. In 1944, her father was enlisted in the army and participated in the war with Japan. In the army, he had to change his name because his life as a Jew was in danger. After the war, they lived in Chernivtsi in Ukraine.

In 1989, Zina together with her husband and their three children emigrated to Israel. Her two brothers and sister live in the USA and one brother lives in Austria. One of her brothers with his family lives in Israel. Zina told us that she is very happy that she can read books. Unfortunately, she suffers from Alzhe-

imer and is afraid to go outside. At the end of our meeting, we prayed for Zina and we said that we are grateful to the God for Israel, by which we have received salvation in Messiah Yeshua, who is a Jew. When Zina heard this, she smiled as a sign that she agrees with what we said.

After this visit, we met with 88-year-old Dora. In 1941, when her father was on the front, Ukrainian police led all the Jewish families to the river and began to drown them. Dora went to one of them and begged him



not to kill them. Then they brought them to a prison where there were already five Jewish families. Early in the morning, they could secretly go out to exchange valuables for bread. Later, they were taken to another camp where they were starved. At this time Dora's mother was killed. Her uncle secretly gathered everyone for prayer. Grandma decided to escape and before escaping said that she believes that God would keep her. Unfortunately, during her escape, she was caught by the Ukrainian police. When they started to beat her, Dora's grandma told them: "You beat me and I will bless you". Then they stopped beating her and one of the Ukrainians brought her bread. Then they brought her to a restaurant in Yampil and she was given the opportunity to work. Grandma asked that they also help her family. When Jews came, she could help them. In March 1944, Dora was liberated from the ghetto by partisans and then she met her grandmother.

In 1999, Dora together with her husband went to Israel and five years ago her daughter came. When Dora came to Israel, she believed in Yeshua as her Messiah and joined the

Messianic community. This fact is not only a joy for Dora, but also for each of us.

We also met 97-year-old Lija who comes from Moscow and during the war was in the evacuation. There she met her future husband.



After the war, they returned to their native Moscow. In 1993, she came to Israel. Her daughter along with her family cares for her. At the end of our meeting, we could bless Lija with the blessing of Aaron. Let's ask for grace for Lija, to open her heart to salvation in Messiah Yeshua.

During our next visit, we met 88-year-old Josif and 81-year-old Mania. Mania's family



during the war lived in Belarus and then was in the evacuation. Her father died and with the rest of the family, she returned to Belarus. Mania's aunt lived in Lithuania. During a visit to her aunt, Mania met Josif. They came to Israel 42 years ago. Due to advanced diabetes, Josif has been blind for 21 years. During the war, Josif and his family were in the ghetto in Kovno. When he was 13 years, he was among 130 children that were exported to the death camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau. At the train station in Katowice, they were told that in Auschwitz they kill people. At this time two boys escaped. One of them died and the other was

saved by a family in Poland. In 1944, ninety of these children were gassed in the gas chambers. The stay in this a dreadful camp, which was Auschwitz-Birkenau, left an indelible mark on Josif's life. This is evidenced by the camp number tattooed on his forearm. For 21 years Mania cared for Josif, but in the present state



of health, she needs help herself. Let's pray for their health and above all for their salvation.

Another person we visited was 81-year-old Polina who comes from Moscow. Before the outbreak of the war, her mom's sister took



her and her sister to Ukraine, where they were met with the war. At the age of four years old together with her sister, they were imprisoned in a camp in the Vinnytsia region of Ukraine. There was great famine and they had to eat grass that they found in the fields. However, the whole family survived and met after the war. Polina cannot forget all those heavy experiences that left a deep mark in her heart. Nineteen years ago Polina together with her family moved to Israel and in 2006 her husband died.

Polina is very sick. She had two heart attacks and two strokes, and in addition, an ope-

ration on her knee. Besides all that, she has a pacemaker. Two years ago as a result of a fall Polina broke her spine and had another operation. Due to a cataract, she also had to undergo eye surgery. Polina has passed through and still is going through many difficult health situations. However, Polina's daughter is by profession a doctor and very much cares for her mother.

In the end, we blessed Polina with the Aaronic blessing. Pray for Polina for God's mercy and for her salvation.

Later we went to Tel Aviv, where we met 87-year-old Janina, who was born in Krakow. When the war broke out, her father and bro-



Ula and Janina

ther went to the army. Janina together with her mother lived in the Kazimierz district of Krakow with her aunt, who had two daughters. Then they had to leave Krakow and lived in Gdów. Mother looked Polish and travelled to Krakow, where she traded and could purchase a little food. Her father and brother were transported from Lviv to Siberia and later they went to Uzbekistan.

Janina together with her mother had to go to Wieliczka, where Jews were sent to the death camp in Bełżec. When they were waiting for the transport, the mother pushed her little daughter in the direction of her friends who did not have children and took Janina as their daughter. Her mother was transported to the camp in Płaszów, where she stayed a year and a half, then she was taken to the camp in Buchenwald. Janina was handed over to the women's order, where among the 18 children there were already 6 Jewish girls. Her foster parents had to pay for Janina's stay in the order. When the Red Army entered Kraków, Ja-

nina was taken to her foster parents. After the liberation of the camp in Buchenwald, her mother returned to Kraków and met with her daughter and her foster parents. At the time Janina's dad and brother returned from Siberia. During this period, Janina had problems with her identity and regularly attended the Catholic Church. She did not know if she was Jewish or Polish.

In 1950, Janina together with her husband went to Stockholm and then to Israel. Janina's husband, who is no longer alive, was a Polish patriot. He served in Ander's Army and fought at Monte Cassino.

Janina has three daughters who together with their families are living in Israel. Janina calls her flat a Polish home in which she welcomes Poles. We are grateful to God for Janina, who was not only saved during the Holocaust by precious Poles but above all, she believes in the Lord Jesus as her personal Messiah and Saviour.

The next day we met our friends: Gedeon and his brother Alex. The parents together with Alex, Gedeon and their youngest brother Dani lived in Legnica. In 1957, on the wave of



Gedeon Roman and Alex

Gomółka persecution, they were forced to leave Poland. During our meeting, there was a conversation about Yeshua the Messiah. Gedeon, because by profession is a driver and has contact with many Christians, could hear the gospel. Let's pray that faith, which is by listening, would reach his heart and the heart of his brothers. *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.* (Romans 10:17)

On the second to last day of our stay in Israel, we went to Kibbutz HaOgen, where we met with Jakub Guterman and his wife Ani. Jakub's grandfather was a rabbi in Radzymin.

His name was Jakub Haim Guterman. Jakub was born in 1935 in Płock, where during the war the Germans created a ghetto where Jews were rounded up from the areas around Radom in 1941. One of the Poles who was hiding gave his mother the birth certificate of his cousin, then purchased a Polish birth certi-



ficcate for Jakub and his father. This man found the notes of Jakub's father hidden in a bottle. These notes were published in the book entitled "Leaves from Fire" – Simha Guterman. Then Jakub and his family found themselves in Warsaw, where Jakub's father worked in the Mariavite Order. Jakub's father fought and was killed on the first day of the Warsaw Uprising. Jakub was hidden in one of the female orders and just before the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising was taken by one of the nuns to a village. Jakub's mother survived 6 weeks in the basement of a bombed house in Warsaw.

After the war, Jakub's mother came to him in the village. When they met, for an hour they said nothing but only wept. Both of them very much wanted to stay in Poland. Unfortunately, due to the reigning anti-Semitism, Jakub decided to leave for Israel. Riding in a train he heard the conversation of two Polish women who claimed: "Hitler freed our nation from the Jews". In 1950, after Jakub's persuasion, he and his mother decided to go to Haifa in Israel, where they found a refugee camp. For two and a half years they had to live under tents because at that time lots of people arrived in Israel. Jakub and Ani have three children. Their fourth child died during the war with Lebanon.

The most tragic thing is that after all these events, Jakub lost his faith in God. But when

he showed us around the kibbutz, in the building where the concert hall was located, he sang the old Polish song: "When the auroras rise in the morning". Then we could tell Jakub that just as in the words of this song: God created him and saved him, so why should he not praise Him?

We are grateful to God for this time spent in Israel. We can see how important this ministry is and how many people we were able to visit and comfort. With God's help, we would like to continue running the "Living Memory" project under which we also help needy persons cooperating through the "Living Water For Free" Foundation, that helps people who survived the Holocaust, widows and orphans, and broken families.

We again ask for your prayers for the salvation of those who we met and visited.

Shalom from Oświęcim

Below we present pictures of people who survived the Holocaust, with whom we visited, and who have passed away.

