



# 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](http://www.shalomoswiecim.pl) • e-mail: [hope@pro.onet.pl](mailto:hope@pro.onet.pl)

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## Dear friends

The platform of the nineteenth-century, impressive railway station in Vinnytsia slowly filled with passengers waiting for the train to Przemyśl.



We stood on it together with friends from Ukraine who wanted to say goodbye to us. The eight days we spent in Ukraine passed quickly, providing us with a lot of impressions. Now we returned to Poland. I looked at my watch, there were still 10 minutes before the arrival of the train. People stood with their luggage mostly in silence, without smiles, without emotions, engaged in their thoughts; only in children there was a certain excitement, although there was also no joy on the children's faces.

Just a few more minutes and everyone be in their compartments on the way to their loved ones who stayed in the country. However, I did not manage to finish my thoughts yet, when a missile alarm suddenly sounded. At the moment when I least expected to hear it, it

sounded sinister, as if it wanted to mock us: "Where do you think are you going?" I looked around, people stood still for a moment, as if the alarm was something illogical for them at this point, out of place. The sound of the sirens did not stop, slowly filling everyone with uncertainty. From the megaphone, there was a male voice ordering everyone to get off the platforms. We took our luggage to take them down the stairs. In the underground passage, for a few minutes, we listened to the constant, cold and foreign sound of sirens. When they finally stopped, our train, at last, came to the platform. Standing at the door of the wagon, we said goodbye to our friends. The train started... We travelled to our peaceful, free homeland. They had to stay there.

Eight days earlier, we set out to Ukraine filled with faith that we must visit our loved ones in this country, especially in this difficult time of war, with all its struggles, uncertainty and fear of loved ones. We loaded a van with gifts and set off on the road to the border. Taking gifts that were so very expected on that side, we quickly crossed the border. On the other side, there was an endless string of all kinds of vehicles driving to Poland. It seemed that the line of lorries, tankers, coaches, passenger cars was endless. We drove almost thirty kilometres before the last vehicle was behind us.

First, we went to Lviv, to the church there, to deliver some of the gifts for mothers with children.



The remaining part was reloaded to a second van, which was already waiting for us there. We drove the rest of the road with our friend Igor, with whom we have been driving in Ukraine for many years.

Passing through the next kilometres of Ukrainian land, we passed columns of military vehicles, military posts and all kinds of barriers. Looking at all this, I thought to myself that it was already so good, better roads, more modern houses, more smiles on people's faces, and here is this war... Everything interrupted and destroyed, tearing these people away from their desires, dreams of a better future, if not for themselves, then at least for their children.

We arrived at Shepetivka late in the evening. Igor, our driver, did not feel so good and quickly went to sleep. I could not sleep that night, immersed in my thoughts, only late at night I fell into a deep sleep.

In the morning we met with Roza and Zinow and discussed all the problems that have occurred recently, we went with them to visit the people for whom we came here.

Shepetivka is such a typical city taken straight out of the 1970s. Not much has changed here, only the monument of Lenin was removed so that only the pedestal from it remained. Old, shabby staircases, torn postal boxes, sidewalks in need of repair – that was the landscape.

We knocked on a door, which after a while opened. The familiar, caring face of 73-year-old Luda appeared at the door. Going inside, we saw her 71-year-old husband Alik sitting on the bed smiling to us in greeting. As a former military officer, he kept his cool and



always had a strong psyche, unlike his wife. When we saw them for the last time, Alik had both legs, now he showed us the remains of an amputated limb.

"Look at it, there is no leg there but it hurts. I say to it: 'Why do you cause me pain, after all, you're no longer there?'" – he smiled again pointing at the amputated leg. "First my calf started to hurt me, later it was swollen, infected, and finally nine days ago amputated. The earlier injections did not help. After paying EUR 149 for each shot, unfortunately, they did not help."

Luda stood in silence, tremendously experiencing everything. She had already suffered two strokes and was overcome by overwhelming depression. Their daughter lives in Russia and because of what is happening now in Ukraine, she cannot come to her parents.

During the conversation, Roman asked Alik: "Alik, do you believe in Jesus?" "Yes, Roman, I believe" came the quiet, determined answer.

When we left, we asked how long they have been married. In March, in the spring they will have their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Please, let us pray that God will deliver Luda from the crushing depression and give them comfort in this marriage as well as show them every grace for the remaining years of their life together.

After this visit, we met with 56-year-old Andriy and his 76-year-old mother Wiktoria. The meeting took place in the local synagogue, which was beautifully renovated and in-

sulated thanks to the generous help of brothers and sisters from the AktionVerzicht organization from Switzerland.



Andrei and Wiktoria come from Kharkiv and their journey into the unknown began when their apartment was destroyed by a rocket that fell on the third floor of their apartment building, and they lived below, on the second. They had no electricity, gas or water. They tried to heat food on the candles. In one moment life became a nightmare but they survived and that was what mattered now. Having nothing, they left for Dnipro in March. Huge traffic jams blocked the roads, people wanted to get out of there as soon as possible to save themselves and their loved ones. After many difficulties, they managed to achieve their goal, but they went further toward Moldova and stayed in Mohyliv.

There Andrirej contacted our Roza from Shepetivka, who offered him help. He did not think long and came to Shepetivka. Andrei is a second-degree invalid and this whole journey was not easy for him and his mother. Roza helped them to acclimatize, she also helped them with meals. For the first two months, they slept at the Pentecostal Church there. Now they live in a dormitory, without a bathroom, so they still have to go to the Pentecostal Church to bathe.

When we talked to Andrei and his mother, more refugees from the eastern parts of the country came to the synagogue in that city. Roza and Zinow help them as soon as they can through food products and medicines. Roza strengthens them with God's Word. When they all arrived, Roman told them:

"None of us is a hero, but in our hearts, there was a desire to meet you. We did not



come here for an excursion but we came to tell you that God loves you. What, then, shall we say in response to these things? *If God is for us, who can be against us?* Rom. 8:31. You can forget about many things but you can never forget about God because then you will have nothing left. Auschwitz became a place of refuge for Jews and Ukrainians. The most important thing is to reconcile with God. We in Poland pray for your salvation, and we are also very much filled with emotion after the last rocket attack on Shepetivka."

After Roman's words, Roza spoke:

"There are different Christians, but our friends from Poland are trying to help you with all their hearts. The most important thing for man is to be recorded in God's Book of Life. You can have a fake ticket to God in your life. Different people tell you different things but we tell you the truth. The Jews have forgotten that there is a true God. Nothing is impossible with God. God can help us in everything. Look, Alik has already said goodbye to life, but now he hopes in God that everything will be fine. He will have a prosthesis and will walk again."

Let us ask God to end this war in Ukraine as soon as possible, so that the millions of people who had to leave their homes and wander into the unknown, often only with what they managed to carry in their hands, could experience peace and return to their hometowns.

After the group meeting, we talked to 52-year-old Sierioza. He said he was struggling with cancer and is currently going through chemotherapy. He has three children aged 22,

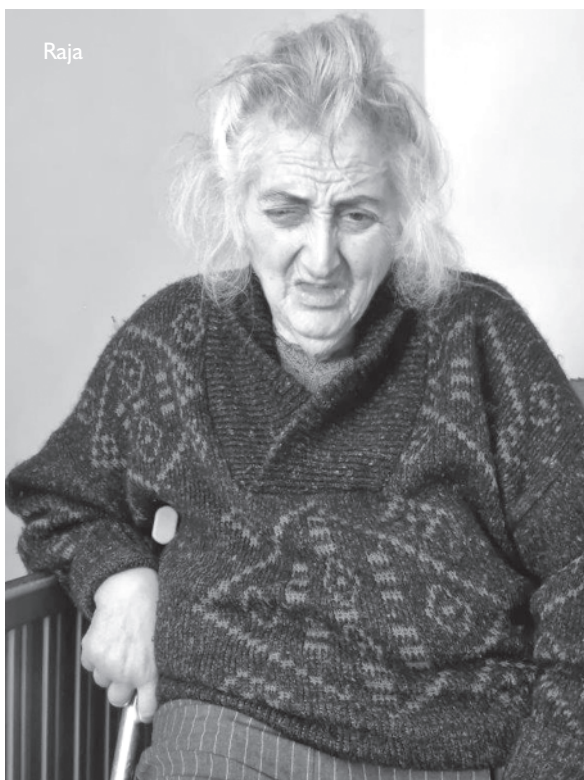




Sierioza

17 and 13 and wants to overcome this Goliath he has to fight with, so he asks for prayer for healing.

At the end of our stay in Shepetivka, we visited 74-year-old Raja, who we first met 23 years ago when she was beaten. Back then she didn't have a roof above her head, terrified by the world around her, completely withdrawn into herself. Roza managed to reach her, took care of her, gave her shelter and food. And so today she is under the care of Roza as well as ours. As an Association, we pay her rent and utilities so that she can spend her old



Raja

age with dignity. A large curvature of the spine is a significant burden for her, which affects her movement and well-being. She is currently struggling with swollen feet, covered with numerous wounds and overgrown nails, which she won't allow anyone to cut and bring them to order. Let us ask God that Raja would want to listen and follow the recommendations that serve her well-being.

The next day in the morning we left for the Vinnytsia. Igor, our friend and driver, felt worse and worse. A temperature, cough and significant weakness caused that he was forced to end the trip with us in the Vinnytsia. Two days later it turned out that Igor had Covid. Thank God, none of us got sick.

In Vinnytsia, we met with a 73-year-old Dola, which 4 years ago broke the femoral neck of the hip. From that time, her whole life changed. First of all, she began to be afraid to leave the apartment to go on the street. Meeting with her was a huge experience for us, none of us had any idea that Dola is so incredibly talented.



Dola

She was a music teacher at the school for 50 years. When she retired, she started her life again from scratch. She began to translate Russian songs into Ukrainian. Then she began



to learn Hebrew, despite the fact that she still feels pain in her leg, and every step makes her uncomfortable. After the operation, unfortunately, he has a shorter leg. Recently, he writes music to the Psalms of David. She has released a record on which she sings psalms in Hebrew. She also published a book in Israel, which was translated into Ukrainian, Hebrew and Russian. Dola's parents were Jews, and her grandfather, Meyer Kulik, was a cantor. Dola certainly inherited her talent from her grandfather, and by the grace of God, she can now develop it. We asked her to sing one of the Psalms in Hebrew. When we heard her singing, each of us was moved to the depths of our hearts. She was able to bring out with her voice the depth of sorrow, suffering and hope directed in prayer to God Himself. In her singing, there was something that made the listener not remain indifferent to what he was hearing. Dola believes in Jesus. She said:

“How in today's world can you live without Jesus? He is the only hope.

Dola has a brother in Moscow, who is a composer. They cannot visit, and most of her friends went to Poland.

Let us ask God to give her health and strength so that she can reach many hearts thirsty for God with her passion and creativity.

We also visited 80-year-old Leonid and his 74-year-old wife Ida.



Ida & Leonid

Year by year we see how his health is deteriorating. For 22 years, he has been suffering from diabetes and most likely because of that

the hip neck surgery, which was carried out four years ago, was not successful. It is more and more difficult for Ida to take care of her husband, especially recently, when despite vaccination suffered from Covid. She has a persistent temperature above 38 degrees, a significant drop in blood pressure 60/50 and general weakness. He lack strengths and perhaps slowly also hope. Ida has always hidden in her world during difficult times, where she poured beauty into the tapestries and tablecloths she made, now perhaps she no longer enjoys it either...

Let us ask God for health and strength for Ida and her husband.

In Vapniarka we met with 67-year-old Luda, who is the coordinator in this village. It is with her that we go to the local Jewish community.



Luda

One of her two sons living in the Vinnytsia returned from Israel, where he lived earlier and was called into the army, and she, like every mother, worries about her child. She enjoys her granddaughters, who are 13 and 3 years old. What doesn't she like? She smiles: “definitely winter”. Let us ask God that Luda would be healthy and continue to serve the Jewish Community of Vapniarka.

Wasilienka Galina is already 85 years old, but she welcomed us with joy.



“I have guests from – they are from Poland. I sit practically all the time at home, because what is there to do here when you are so old? I give myself to God in prayer, asking Him for peace and every need. A few days ago a boy from Vapniarka, a young soldier, died. Well, such times. I could also die in July, as I was in the Vinnytsia when the rocket fell there. I had an operation on both eyes, they gave me new lenses. A long time ago I treated people. Oh, what I have already experienced in my life. As a child, I was in the ghetto with my mother, brother and aunt. I would have probably died there, like my family, but a Ukrainian took me from there. He was an electrician, he could enter the ghetto. My father, from the house of Rubinstein, returned home wounded from the front. He spoke little, sat and thought until he died in 1946. As a child, I was raised by a Polish woman and her husband, a Ukrainian from Nemyriv, they helped me and became parents for me. Now my son and grandson are my joy. It is good that you visited me, it’s a little cold here, but we will have heating in November.”

When we arrived in Tulczyn, we met Jura with great joy, who is now 49 years old. How time flies quickly. As usual, Jura welcomed us with a smile. He is always with God and reads the Bible every day. Brothers and sisters from the local church come to him and take him for walks. In his daily functioning, he is helped by two patronages. Jura does not cause anyone-



trouble, does not complain, with his personality he spreads joy around. He is grateful to the community from Wisla who bought for him a special bed for the sick because he previously slept on an old sofa bed. His brother lives in the Vinnytsia, and his aunt works all the time in Italy and it pays the patronage. The church also helps him. They need a washing machine for him now. Let us thank God for his joy, which he pours into the heart of Jura.

In Yampil, we visited 58-year-old Misza and his 87-year-old mother, who coordinated the



local Jewish community. In Yampil they do not have gas in the apartment buildings. The apartment is heated with electric oil radiators. During our conversation, we began to talk to them about their Messiah Yeshua, but always in such cases, either suddenly the phone rings or someone knocks at the door and so it was this time. Whenever we try to convey the good news, there is spiritual opposition.

The weather on this day was extremely burdensome. The wind blew with such force that there were a lot of broken branches on



the road. With difficulty we walked to a nearby bread stand, where we wanted to buy some rolls. Suddenly, I felt a hard blow to my head.



The unlucky bread stand

I thought that someone threw a stone. There was no one behind me. On the ground lay large-sized branches and a broken roof. Blood began to flow from my head, I sat down. Roman prayed, holding a makeshift dressing. We quickly went to the hospital, where they gave me 3 stitches. All the staff, when they learned that we are from Poland, thanked us for the help our country gives to Ukraine. When we said goodbye, they said to thank everyone in Poland. Coming out of the hospital I thought that a person could think of rockets, and here an ordinary tree can end a person's life. Praise God for the grace He has shown me.

The next day, according to the doctor's recommendation, I had to stay in place, in Vinnytsia. Roman and Mariusz went by themselves on this day.

While in Zhmerynka, they visited a 36-year-old Jewish woman, Marina. After the death of



Marina

her loved ones she was left alone, sick and had difficulty moving. She needs the help of other people to go outside. During the conversation it was clear that she has significant mental problems. She lives in a neglected apartment, full of insects. Two caregivers come to her and they do her shopping and cooking. She is grateful for everything and thanks you for your help. When asked by Roman what her dream is, she replies: "To be with people..."

Let us ask God to help Marina escape from the feeling of loneliness.

Sofia is 73 years old and suffers from cancer and has undergone chemotherapy. Hesel paid for one and a half chemotherapy sessions.



Sofia

Sofia is currently very weakened. She asks all of us to pray because she has to make a decision connected with the disease again. She is at risk of surgery and chemotherapy again. She has three children, and two of them live in Odessa and they are not doing well. Her biggest help is from her 30-year-old grandson. Sofia receives medicine from us. Let us ask God that this Goliath that Sofia is fighting against be defeated.

Before World War II, a large Jewish Community lived in Bar. Currently, there is a small group of Jews in this city. We send 41 packa-

ges and medicines to this town with a population of ten-thousand people.

Here, 84-year-old Naum lives with his 75-year-old wife Jewgienia. Naum survived the pogrom in his childhood, lost his father in the war. He is grateful to God for having survived, but he does not want to speak about those times. "During the occupation, there were Romanians here, they starved us very much and forced us to work hard, but they did not kill us. Instead, the Germans killed". When Naum grew up, he worked in a water-sewage company, of which he became the director over time. Let us ask God to give them rest and joy in their old age.

Roman and Mariusz also visited 59-year-old Nato, whose mother was Jewish and father was Georgian. Nato has a son in Kiev. Nato sews camouflage nets for the army all day long to earn a minimum wage to live on. She gave her life to Jesus. She loves the 13th chapter of the Letter to the Corinthians, and she goes to work with Psalm 19 on her lips. She is very open to others. During the meeting, a rocket alarm sounded. Probably it was the same rocket that caused an alarm at that time also in Vinnytsia where I remained.

The next day we went all together to Tulczyn, where we met with 85-year-old Rita, who is close to our heart. It was immediately noticeable that Rita was very weakened.

"My dears, I think we will not meet again in this world. I thank you for all these years of your help and for our community here. Thank you Poland and Poles for this huge help for Ukraine. May God bless Ukraine, Poland and those nasty Russians as well. I would never have believed that the Russians would fight against the Ukrainians."

We read Rita the Word of God. When we finished, she said:

"You are good people, you believe in Jesus. I did not believe, but now I believe. When I was at your conference in Poland in 2019, I realized that if all Christians were like you, Jesus would have come back to Earth long ago."

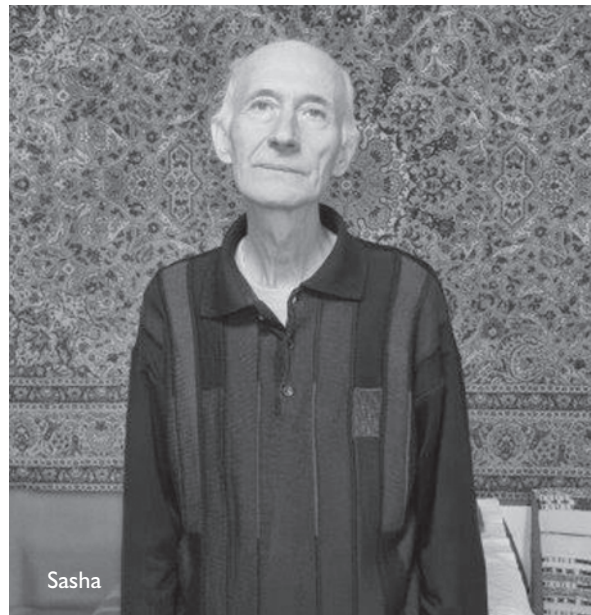
Later we talked about the current situation in Ukraine. Rita summed it up like this:

"Let the Russians live in their homes and the Ukrainians live in their homes. Ukrainians have helped me a lot in my life."

We have known Rita for many years, and she coordinated the help among the local Jewish community. For all these years we could see how merciful God touches the heart of Rita and opens her eyes to Jesus. Let us thank God that He opened her spiritual eyes and heart to the King of Israel.

Sasza is 65-years-old and is a believer. 25 years ago he gave his life to Jesus. He reads the Bible. He said:

"If every person takes the prayer "Our Father" into his heart, it would be much better in this world. People listen, but they do not change.



Sasha never married. As a boy, he was in the army in Siberia. At the age of 55, he retired early because he was from the Chernobyl district. Currently, he is struggling with spine disease. Unfortunately, there are no funds for him to go to a sanatorium, his retirement is only 2500 hryvnia (about EUR 63). After talking with him, we concluded that a cafeteria is needed in Tulczyn, if only for 10 people to start with.

Always when we visit Raja, who is currently 88 years old, we spend a lot of time at her place having friendly conversations together. This time we also spent a few hours with her.





Mirek, Raja & Roman

She needed our prayer. Her health had deteriorated. She had already had surgery on her leg twice, but neither was successful. The last one lasted 3.5 hours, under anaesthesia to the spine. Most likely it is cancer. Raja has one son and a grandson. The son is a musician and teaches music at the House of Culture. She was a midwife for 61 years. In addition to the unexplained matter with her leg, he also has eye problems. Because of the high blood pressure in the eyes caused by glaucoma, she cannot read. He also has cataracts. Her eyes quickly get tired. Let us ask God to heal Raja's leg.



Raja

The last day in Ukraine we spent in the Vinnytsia, visiting among others 77-year-old Raja, who recently broke the hip neck bone, the fracture was intraarticular. Due to the high fragility of the bone, the doctor was against the surgery in her case. Her leg will be a little shorter. Raja worked as a doctor a long time ago. Whenever we visit her, she says that she is not an atheist who does not believe in God, but an agnostic who neither confirms nor denies His existence. The problem with her is that every time she speaks the same thing, which does not bring her any closer to God at all. Let us ask God to open Raja's heart to Him and give her life to Him.

87-year-old Cyla has constant, strong back pain, so she must constantly take pain pills. She has already been to many doctors, but so far nothing has helped her. Cyla has recently been undergoing a very severe case of Covid. Her two sisters live in Israel. Her son stayed in Ukraine, he does not want to go to Israel. She



Cyla

complains to us that she experiences the alarm very much every time, which causes her stress. For this reason, she cannot watch television, especially when the suffering of children is shown there. Let us ask God to pour His peace into the heart of Cyla and to be relieved of her chronic pains.



We also visited there 85-year-old Raja. Her situation is particularly difficult. Together with her daughter, they became ill with cancer. They were sick at the same time, she survived, but her daughter, unfortunately, did not. She has been mourning her for two years. Let us ask God to give her comfort.

The next person we visited was 74-year-old Joanna. Her mother was a Jew, her father



was a Russian. Her whole family worked in medical professions. She herself was a nurse. Her husband died. Joanna has had mobility

problems for 5 years. She said about her state of health:

"A lot of diseases while death is not seen. Thank you for helping us, without this help, we would have died a long time ago."

Let us ask God to pour joy into the life of Joanna.

The next day before noon we drove to the Vinnytsia railway station. Looking through the windows, we said goodbye to this city and all our loved ones. Through the car windows, we saw a building destroyed by a rocket attack, where many people were killed and injured, including children. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Rom. 8:35

During this trip we wanted to help as many people as possible, we wanted all those with whom we meet, to give encouragement and convey that we are with them. Ukraine is still unbroken, Ukrainians are fighting for a better future, independence. Today, although they do not have light, nor gas and cold penetrates the walls of their homes, their hearts are still hot, full of gratitude to all those who remember and help them. "Thank you, Poles, thank you, Poland", how many times have I heard these words during the last few days! Soon it will be Christmas, when we sit down at the Christmas table, let us remember all those who remained there.

**There are things in the world made by wisdom and the hand of man, there are works created by the passion of man, but I believe that what is the most beautiful is all that we do in God's love for another person.**

*Mirosław Mieszala*



## Israel – Living Memory

We are grateful to God that after a period of many travel difficulties imposed by restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to go to Israel. It was a very intense time, devoted mainly to renewing and strengthening relations with many people who are part of the Living Memory project, which we have been implementing for several years with God's help

At the beginning of our stay in Israel, we arrived in Ashkelon. In this city, we met with Edik, who emigrated to Israel many years ago from Shepetivka in Ukraine, where we have been running a cafeteria for the neediest Jews for many years. Shortly after arriving in the land of Israel, Edik met Yeshua as his personal Saviour. Currently, he is fully involved in the functioning of a large messianic community in this city. Edik also has many contacts with people who survived the Holocaust. He regularly organizes for them trips to Biblical places in Israel. During such trips, we have shared with them the Good News about Messiah Yeshua. Our desire and prayer are also to join our hands on this work, so that the Good News of salvation in Yeshua spreads as widely as possible among the people of God's chosen people, especially among those who survived the Holocaust. Together with Edik, we also visited clubs run by war veterans and Holocaust survivors in Ashkelon, Ashdod and Sderot. It was a blessed time to again meet with people who have already visited our country as part of the Rest



Meeting in Sderot

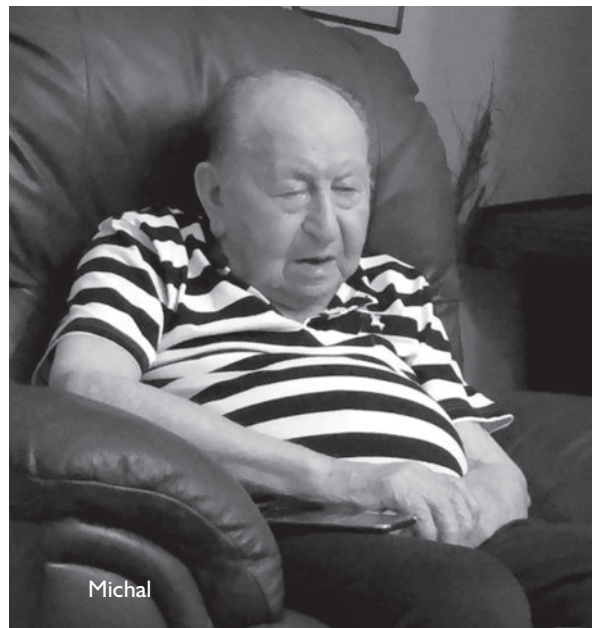
project, which last year, together with Edik, we organized in Poland for people from the most heavily shelled by Hamas in Israel. Once again we could see what an incredible testimony for them was their stay in our country.

In a moshav, in Shahr, we visited Drora and Eli. Eli is a Polish Jew who, together with his parents, was forced by the authorities of the Polish people's Republic to leave our country during the reign of WładysławGomółka.



Drora & Eli

Another person we met with in the city of Netanya was Michal, who comes from Radzymin. During the war, he and his entire family fled deep into Russia. After the war, he returned to Poland. However, after the Kielce pogrom in 1946, his mother decided that they had to leave for Israel.



Michal

They left illegally through Czechoslovakia, Austria and Germany. Michał went to Krynica Zdrój every year, where he liked to rest. Currently, due to his state of health, he is not able to travel so far. However, he still warmly and fondly remembers his time in Poland and the many friendships with kind-hearted Poles he made and still maintains. For Michał, meeting with us was a reminder of the country in which he grew up and to which he returned every year. At the end of our meeting, we blessed Michał with the Aaronic blessing.

The next stage of our trip was Haifa, where we met with dear friends, which in the years 2018 and 2019 we hosted in Poland as part of the Rest project. It was not only a time of memories that are so alive in the hearts of our dear friends but also a time of sharing our faith in the Messiah, Yeshua.



Meeting in Hajfa

In Haifa, we met with our dear Swieta, who for many years has been living in a hostel run by the Jewish Agency in this city.

We know Swieta from the time when she lived in Ukraine in Zhmerynka, where to this day we organize help for the members of the local Jewish community. It was a very joyful meeting in which Swieta not only remem-



bered the time spent in Ukraine but also the time of rest in Poland, which, although it took place many years ago, still remains alive in her memory. We are glad that in Israel Swieta has established contact with believers in Yeshua. Swieta, though living very modestly, is grateful to God for His blessing and care.

From Haifa we went to Kiryat Bialik, where lives Miriam Harel, the author of the books: "Now You May Cry" and "We Have Survived To Tell" published by us a few years ago.



Piotr, Miriam & Roman

Miriam was very happy with this meeting and she was very grateful to us for the visit. Miriam survived the Holocaust in its most terrible dimension, finding it so difficult to accept God and His omnipotence and influence on this world. Despite being 98 years old, she is very active among young people and Israeli soldiers, testifying about how she survived the hell of the Holocaust. As long as Miriam lives,



our faith and prayer for her salvation are not extinguished. We believe deeply that the Lord God of Israel will find the way to her heart to trust Jesus as his Saviour.

While in Israel, we also went to Degania Alef - the oldest kibbutz in the modern history of Israel, founded in 1910. In this kibbutz, we visited Tamara, who remembered Poland with great warmth, where she and her siblings grew up in her youth. She reminded us with great joy about the good contacts with the authorities of the city of NowyDwór Mazowiecki, where she was born. The result of this was the restoration of the Jewish cemetery and the



erection of an obelisk commemorating the victims of the Holocaust in this city. We are grateful to God for such initiatives that give a very good testimony to our country.

During this time we also met with Szlomo Jarden, who survived the Holocaust thanks to the birth certificate of his Polish peer.



The next stage of our trip was Jerusalem, where we met with Lena, who, as part of the Mahase Foundation, organizes help for the poorest inhabitants of the city, including many homeless, single mothers and many poor people who find it hard to survive from month to month.

Lena and her colleagues are also helping many newly arrived immigrants to the Land of Israel take their first steps.

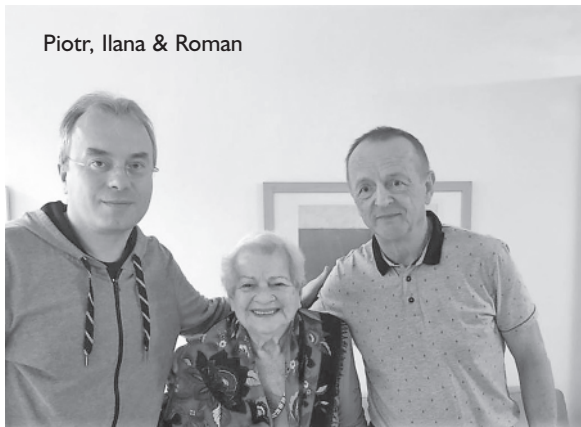


We are grateful to God for such initiatives which are supported by Christians shine with beautiful and bright light blessing the people of Israel in need in a practical way.

In Ramat Gan, we visited Ilana, who lives with her daughter for health reasons.

Ilana was born and raised in Krakow. All her happy childhood she spent in a house that no longer exists, and which was located just below Wawel Hill.

During the German occupation of Krakow, Ilana, like all Jews, was transferred to the ghetto with her whole family, where brutal selections were arranged time and again between those who were able to work and those who could



Piotr, Ilana & Roman

no longer work. For the Germans, the unproductive element, and thus not deserving of life, were cripples, the elderly, pregnant women and children. Ilana, as a little girl, lived in front of the selection square and watched the Dantean scenes that took place just below the windows of her apartment. The last farewell to her beloved mom and two little sisters, who were sent to their deaths in the Bełżec. It was an experience Ilana will not forget until the end of her life.

Both for us and for Ilana it was an important and moving meeting, which once again showed us the great need for close contact with our Jewish compatriots who after the Holocaust found themselves in Israel. They are part of a history that, with their deaths, will be gone forever. Ilana, despite everything she experienced, is an extremely warm and cheerful person. She remains in our hearts and prayers so that before she leaves this land we pray that she may know Yeshua the Messiah as her Saviour.

Gedeon and Braha are a married couple that we also visited near Tel Aviv. Gedeon, along with his parents and siblings, left Poland from Legnica, on the wave of anti-Semitic actions of the then-communist government led by Władysław Gomułka.

Gedeon needs our prayers, especially at this time when he is waiting for a serious treat-



Roman, Braha & Gedeon

ment related to the proper functioning of cerebral hemispheres. Let us entrust Gedeon to the Lord, asking for health and salvation for him and his whole family.

Another place we visited in Israel was Rishon LeZion. In this big city, next to Tel Aviv, there is a Messianic congregation led by Michael Yaron. Michael's grandfather – Aleksander Bronowski was a Polish Jew from the Lublin area. After he miraculously survived the Holocaust, he left for the Land of Israel. Aleksander Bronowski was one of the co-founders of the Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem and the main initiator of the so-called Avenue of the Righteous, where trees are planted of those who, during the Holocaust, risked their lives to save Jews from inevitable extermination. Michael is aware of his heritage and roots that are connected with Poland. Here, in Rishon LeZion, he not only runs the Messianic Congregation, but he is the founder of the Charity Society of Maim Haim (Living Water), aimed at reaching those in need who survived the Holocaust, especially from the territories of the former Soviet Union. We are grateful to God for cooperation with Michael, which results in practical support for those in need in the Land of Israel.

Together with Michael and his wife Mariana, we visited some people who are offered practical help with their needs. One of them was 80-year-old Rachel and her daughter Ilana.

Rachel together with her whole family came from Morocco, where they miraculously survived the Holocaust.

The martyrdom of Moroccan Jews is a little-known and researched part of that nation's



Rachel & Ilana



history. Rachel with her daughter and son live and function in very modest conditions. During our visit, they expressed a lot of gratitude for our memory and help. Let us remember them in our prayers and ask for their salvation.

We also visited Riwka, who survived the Holocaust due to the fact that in time she was evacuated from Vienna by a special children's train to Sweden. Unfortunately, she never again saw her parents who were murdered by the Germans in Austria.

Riwka recently fell over and lost her memory as a result of a head injury. Currently, she remembers only small fragments from her life. Fortunately, a few years ago she wrote down all her experiences in a book entitled "Ha Bait Sheli" (My Home). Let's pray for Riwka that despite her old age and memory problems, she may experience salvation in Messiah Yeshua.



Our dear friends, who come from Poland and live in the Land of Israel for many years, need us, Poles, not so much in the dimension of material assistance, but above all in the moral and spiritual dimension. We are well aware that other nations will not do it for us, because these people, although older, still think and feel in Polish. That is why it is possible to establish this extremely deep relationship between them and Poles, which in the future can bring the blessed fruits of their salvation. In addition, the extraordinary dimension for them is that people from Oświęcim contact them, who unambiguously associate them with Auschwitz-Birkenau, the hell through which they had to go in their lives, and now from this city, they experience care, love and interest. We ask you to pray that our contacts with these people and the next generation after them will contribute to their salvation because the time of their earthly life is very short.

The second direction, as a complement to this ministry in Israel, is contact with people who survived the Holocaust in the countries of the former USSR such as: Belarus, the Baltic States and Ukraine. Most of them have come to Israel already in old age and receive very modest pensions, and often only receive social assistance from the state, which is the absolute minimum to survive. Thank God that they do not lack daily bread, but often have problems paying more and more expensive rents for rented flats. Their income is several times lower than the income of those who worked in Israel all their lives. It is true that the state provides them with so-called social support, but it is at the absolute minimum. If there is a sudden need among these people, many of them are not able to meet these basic needs. We reach such people with practical help.

It is good and advisable to remember the Holocaust to never allow in the future a similar horror. However, memory alone is not enough. This is why we called this part of the ministry that is connected with the land of Israel "Living Memory." It is not that we only remember the Holocaust, we know facts, numbers and dates. This ministry consists primarily in the fact that our memory is connected with

living people – the last witnesses of these times and with the living God who said: *Israel, I will not forget you* – Isaiah 44:21. It is these living people who have not only survived the Holocaust but still live, who need our warmth, love, and sometimes practical support in their specific physical and spiritual needs, the most important of which is to know the Messiah Yeshua. Once again, we ask you to pray for this ministry in the Land of Israel. We deeply believe that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, who, through the Messiah, Jesus is... *the pioneer and perfecter of faith* (Hebrews 12:2a), will guide us in this work for the glory of His Kingdom.

Our hearts are extremely grateful for the past year 2022 and for all the blessings that we have been able to receive together in serving the nation of Israel. We thank each of you for your prayers, financial support and full commitment to this ministry. We believe that in this New Year 2023, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob wishes to use us as a vessel of mercy and blessing to the nation of Israel. We wish each of you God's blessing and His support for the next year in your life.

***Shalom from Oświęcim***

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