

Dear Adopters and Supporters

Here is a glimpse into the lives of some of our precious Holocaust Survivors!

Our day of visits takes us to Israel's northern border - to the town of Kiryat Shmona.

Shlomo

Our first visit is with Shlomo, who welcomed us with such delight. A charming man, Shlomo's warm and friendly exterior reveals nothing of his past painful experiences. Now 77 years old, Shlomo was a victim of Dr. Mengele who performed horrific medical experiments on Jewish inmates at Auschwitz, especially twins. His twin brother did not survive, leaving Shlomo alone with his terrible memories and the ongoing physical effects of the medical experiments and beatings. Sixty years later, he still suffers a lot of pain in his legs and has difficulty walking. However, today he has something to be happy and grateful for. Christian giving through ICEJ AID and *L'Chaim*, enabled the purchase of an electric scooter to help him get around. We said goodbye with some difficulty since he didn't want us to go but smiled at the warmly extended invitation for a return visit.



Ida

As we walked up to the house, we found Ida sitting outside in the sun where we could also sit and talk with her. Originally from the Ukraine, she is a lovely lady who came to Israel with her husband who is very sick. As a child, Ida knew the deprivations and trauma of life in one of Ukraine's ghettos under Nazi occupation. Despite her current physical limitations which make walking difficult, we can sense that she has much strength of character. In the course of our conversation, it was a blessing to hear Ida reminisce about the Aliyah which brought so many Jews home from the FSU. Remembering those days she said, *"It was as if a wind swept through, putting the urge to come to Israel into people's hearts."* Already widowed when she joined our adoption program, Ida was living alone in a dilapidated apartment. Her home and heart were brightened by the help of *L'Chaim's* young volunteers who gave her walls a new coat of paint. Her appreciation for their support and for Christian care was warmly expressed.



Willi

Following the war, Willi left the horrors of Europe behind and came to Israel at the age of fourteen. Even at that young age he joined the Hagganah and was part of the fledgling Jewish defense force which fought so desperately for the nation's survival. A victim of Dr. Mengele, Willi has suffered poor health his whole life. Today he has throat cancer and must use a device to speak. Despite the daily challenges he faces, Willi thoroughly enjoyed our visit and we learned more about his life. He eagerly showed us photos of his beloved wife of 56 years who died 2 years ago leaving him sad and bereft. Also a Holocaust Survivor, she became Israel's first Post-Lady in the early days of Statehood.



Tatiana

In our next visit, we had the joy of sitting at Tatiana's side. She speaks only Russian but we did our best to express our love. Bedridden these days, she requires the care of her son who told us an appalling story. It is one that is seared in Tatiana's memory. Tatiana had to spend the war years with her children in a ghetto in the Ukraine in terrible conditions along with thousands of other Jewish people. One day German soldiers shot into a crowd of residents. Tatiana stood there holding her 11month old daughter. The little girl was killed and the bullet went into Tatiana's arm. Her small son hid behind his grandfather who was standing next to them. Grandfather died but the boy's life was saved. The wound in Tatiana's arm has caused her problems to this day, but the wounds in her heart go much deeper. Suffering from illness and nearing the end of her days, we are happy that this 90 year old is able to enjoy financial security, friendship and love through the Adopt a Holocaust Survivor Program.



One of our newest adoptees in Pardes Hanna wishes to express his thanks.

Binyamin

Well into the heat of summer, L'Chaim's Co-ordinator Daniel Braun, received an urgent call. It concerned a survivor over the age of 80 with health problem. A visit revealed this aged Holocaust Survivor living alone in terrible conditions. Within a day an air conditioner was installed for him thanks to the Adopt a Holocaust Survivor Program. We invite you to share his delight in having relief from the heat. Binyamin, a new adoptee, writes his thanks for the newfound friendship and help.



Dear Daniel, L'Chaim and the ICEJ,

*I am very happy that the Mechina from Keshet comes to visit me. I live on my own and I don't get many visits and so everyone who comes, especially the young people who bring the food and sit and talk to me gives me a very good feeling. It is important for me to be sure that the visits will continue. **Binyamin***

Indeed, when we visited Binyamin his delight in having guests was clear. He eagerly waited for our arrival at the front gate and ushered us into his modest home with a big smile on his face. He kept up animated conversation until he ushered us out his front gate at the end of our visit.

Thank you for your generous giving which has made it possible for us to express Christian care to these Holocaust Survivors.

For more information contact us at icejaid@icej.org