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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are grateful to the Lord for another trip to Ukraine that we took during the feast of Hanukkah in December last year.

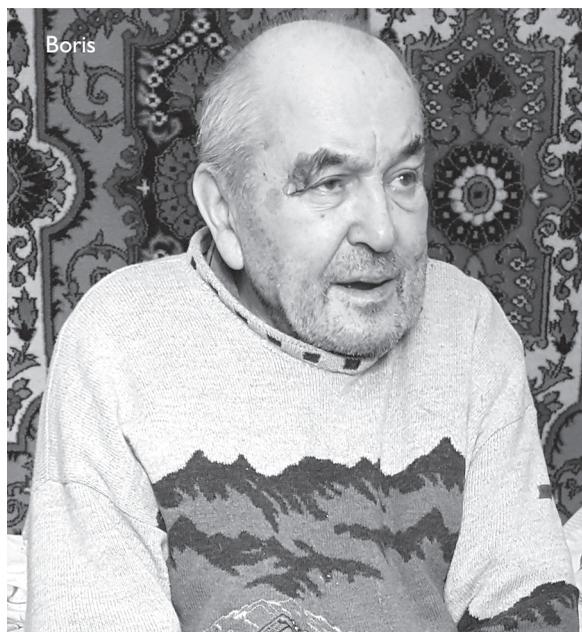
This was an exceptional trip, possible thanks to God and thanks to the generosity of your hearts, for the finances that you sent allowed us to purchase products and prepare 512 packages in many cities and villages in the Vinnytsia region and the town of Shepetivka.



The first place we visited was Voronovytsya where the coordination of the aid is managed by the 64-year-old Grigorij and his wife, the 64-year-old Yevgienia.



In Voronovytsya, from among those who received food packages, we visited the 83-year-old Boris who lives alone. Boris gratefully accepted the package from us and during a conversation he recalled difficult times of the war and the Holocaust, which thanks to God's mercy he survived.



Then we brought packages to Bratslav. Here we met the 84-year-old Golda and her daughter Faina, who looks after the local Jewish community. Faina is a believer in the Messiah of Israel, Yeshua and needs our prayers for God to give her wisdom and strength to be His testimony among the people she serves. Both Faina and her mother bear the wounds of experiences from the times of the



Golda & Faina

Holocaust, which directly affected their family. Faina told us that even knowing the Messiah of Israel – Yeshua, it is difficult to cope with what her family experienced during the war.

Being in Bratslav we visited the 90-year-old Nusia who worked for 60 years as a Russian



Nusia

language and literature teacher. Nusia still has a clear view of reality and despite her age, she is well aware of the reality that surrounds her. Not long ago Nusia broke her hip joint, which became for her a very serious problem. With joy, she listened to the Good News about the Messiah of Israel – Yeshua, and promised that she will read the Word of God which she received from us. Let's pray for her, that she would often read the Word of God and that the Holy Spirit would continually remind her of the words that she heard from us. May the Lord Himself grant her salvation.

The next place we went to was Zhmerynka, where first we met with Emma and her husband Valery. Emma for many years has been coordinating our aid in Zhmerynka, and especially the distribution of food packages. We are very grateful to God for Emma's testimony,

who told us that indeed prayer has great power. Emma's health has improved significantly, and her husband, Valery, is also gradually changing his habits and behaviour. Let's pray for Emma to experience God's grace and love, to open her heart to the Saviour Yeshua, the only one who can save her and help her in daily problems.

We are grateful to God for the opportunity to open a soup kitchen for needy Jews in this place. From April of last year, 12 people receive dinners there. We also met with our dear



Soup kitchen in Zhmerynka

friends at this soup kitchen. After dinner, many people came to us and with tears in their eyes thanked us for organising these meals. However, we well know that if not by God's grace and the generosity of your hearts, this soup kitchen would never have been opened.

In Zhmerynka we visited Oksana and her daughter Aleksandra. We wrote about them in the previous newsletter from Ukraine. This time we found Aleksandra and her mother in



Oksana & Aleksandra

the hospital. Shortly before our visit, she went through a real gehenna. Everything started with a common cold, which however did not recede and was transformed into bilateral pneumonia, which was not correctly diagnosed in time. When finally the doctor diagnosed pneumonia, it was already much too late. In the local hospital, Aleksandra received very strong antibiotics which caused an anaphylactic shock (the body's reaction to allergens contained in the drug). Only by a miracle was it possible to save Aleksandra's life. We are grateful to God that we were able to give Oksana and Aleksandra ad hoc aid for medicines and the stay in the hospital. We very much ask for your prayers for the financial resources to provide them with real help in the future.

We also went to Svetlana and her granddaughter. Unfortunately, during her last stay in the hospital, Svetlana suffered another stroke and laid four days in a coma. Her condition has significantly deteriorated but for some re-



ason the Lord still extends her life here on earth. We are in full admiration of Svetlana's granddaughters who with such persistence and love care for their grandmother. Let's pray for Svetlana and for new strength for her. We also entrust to the Lord her granddaughter Svieta together with her husband and children, for the Lord Himself to surround them with His care and blessing.

After delivering packages in Bar we went to the parents of Ina, Sonia and Piotr. Ina is a believer in Israel's Messiah Yeshua, who was miraculously healed from a serious heart de-



fect. Ina would like to devote herself to ministering to God's chosen people in Mohyliv-Podilsky, to where she will soon move to with her husband Sierioza and daughter Natasha. In the meantime, Ina's father, Piotr, fell ill with cancer. The whole family found themselves in a difficult position – not only financially because of the expensive treatment but also psychologically. We are grateful to God that under the medical project we could support the costs of Piotr's chemotherapy. We ask the Lord for His miraculous intervention in this difficult situation that this family is experiencing. Let's pray also for Ina and their move to Mohyliv-Podilsky, that together with her husband they could find work and be useful in the service of God's people in that city.

Another town in which we meet with our dear friends was Hnivan. We are grateful to God for the chairman of the community, Boris and his wife Natasha, who despite their poor health try their best to care for all members of the Jewish community in Hnivan. Let's entrust them to the Lord, so that in His power and strength for as long as possible they could be a help and support for members of the local Jewish community.

In Hnivan we visited the 70-year-old Ala, who still lives in grief after the loss of her only daughter. While with Ala we reminded her anew that there is a wonderful comforter Yeshua – the Messiah of Israel. In response to



this Ala declared to us her faith and trust in God and the Messiah Yeshua. Let's pray that Ala in her loneliness could trust even more He who understands all her needs, cares and dilemmas.

On the way back from Hnivan we also visited the 50-year-old Lena, who lives in the suburbs of Tyvriv in a boarding school for people with disabilities and the elderly. Her flat is only



one room without a kitchen and toilet, which is shared by the other residents of the boarding school. Lena wanted to spend time with us during the last day of Hanukkah. Lena has serious problems with her kidneys and a heart defect. Her situation was further worsened by a cerebral haemorrhage, as a result of which Lena was confined to a wheelchair. Thank God that Lena firmly believes in Yeshua as her Saviour. She survives on a very modest pension for the disabled. After covering monthly charges for the accommodation and very meagre meals, literally nothing is left over. We are grateful to the Lord for that we can help in Lena's treatment through the medical project.

In Tyvriv we also visited Eduard, who is 79-years-old and his wife Anna, who is 74-years-old. Both Eduard and Anna are supported by



the medical project. With joy and gratitude they welcomed us into their flat. In their problems and ailments, Eduard and Anna trust the Almighty God of Israel. Please pray that by this practical assistance and contact with volunteers from the Shamash Foundation they will be able to know Yeshua as their Lord and Saviour.

Then we went to Mohyliv-Podilsky, where at the very beginning we gave out packages and met with members of the local Jewish community. Everyone was very grateful for this extraordinary sign of remembrance and concern in the form of food packages. When talking with our dear friends in Mohyliv-Podilsky, we were able to draw their attention to the wonderful light of Messiah Yeshua, which not only shines at the time of Hanukkah, but is



available for anyone who accepts Him as their personal Saviour.

In Mohyliv-Podilsky we visited the 86-year-old Klara, who survived the horrors of war and



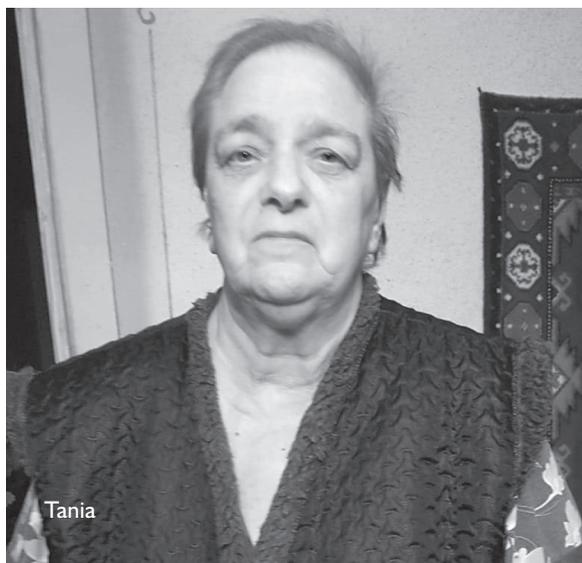
the Holocaust in the Mohyliv ghetto. But she is grateful to God that she's still alive and has good health. We encouraged Klara to trust the Lord Jesus, who not only cares for her here on Earth but also cares for her in eternity. Please pray for Klara that in her loneliness the Lord would reveal His son Yeshua the Messiah so she would accept Him as her Saviour.

We also visited the 87-year-old Galina, who received us with great joy and emotion. Galina experienced in her life the power of God's working. When she had problems and sickness, the Lord heard your and our prayers and healed Galina. She is full of trust and faith in God and Yeshua who so wonderfully cares for her. This was also a beautiful testimony for her whole family and those who know her in this city. At the end of our visit with Galina, we



prayed together the words of Psalm 103:1–5: *Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits- who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

We also paid a visit to the 69-year-old Tania, who receives lunch in the soup kitchen we organised in this city. She also receives medical assistance. Tania is lonely and very ill, but despite her problems and sickness, she received us with great joy and gratitude. She



worked for 39 years in health services as a nurse, however, now there is nobody who would care for her health and other needs. When we talked with Tania about her cares and needs, we directed our thoughts and words to the Eternal Lord and God Israel, who in his eternal Word said: *Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.* Isaiah 40:28-31 With these words we encouraged Tania, to place all her confidence in the Lord and Saviour, Yeshua. Let's pray for our dear Tania, that the Lord would open her heart to the Messiah of Israel, Yeshua.

At the end of our stay in Mohyliv-Podilsky we visited the 61-year-old Zina, who lives alone. She was once a teacher of English literature. She also wrote poems. Unfortunately, Zina currently has psychological problems, resulting



in that she very often falls into depressive states and avoids any contact with people. So far, none of the doctors have been able to give

her any specific help. Our only hope is in the Lord and Messiah of Israel, Yeshua, who came to seek and save people such as Zina. When talking with her, she was not fully aware of what we were saying to her. Although she was holding a conversation with us, at certain moments she spoke in English. Seeing this situation please pray for Zina. We bring her before the throne of Almighty God, who not only has the power over our bodies but also over our psyche and whole being. Let's ask the Lord to touch Zina, heal her and, above all, that she may be saved.

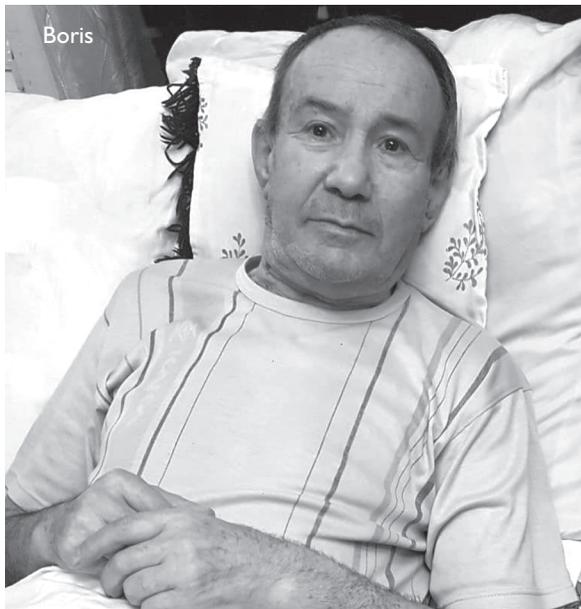
Another town to which we brought food packages, was Vapniarka, where we visited the 80-year-old Galina. Galina and her deceased husband worked as doctors in a local polyclinic. Galina told us about her experiences during the war, when she had to hide from German soldiers. Unfortunately, only she survived the Holocaust from her entire large family.



Galina's biggest problem is advanced diabetes and systematic loss of sight. We ask for your prayers for Galina, that the Lord and God of Israel Himself would heal her wounds from the Holocaust, and would grant her health and salvation.

In Vapniarka we also visited the couple Boris and Anna, who used to coordinate assistance for the Jews in the town. During our last meeting, Boris and Anna gave their lives to the

Messiah of Israel – Yeshua. During our visit, we learned that because of very advanced diabetes and circulatory problems, Boris had his leg amputated. When we spoke with him, we saw an unusual peace and inner joy that Boris has from his relationship with the Messiah of Israel – Yeshua. We also saw the deep faith of Anna, who bravely takes care of her disabled husband. We feel enormous joy to see the great fruit of faith in the Messiah Yeshua, who carries Anna and Boris through the difficult circumstances in their lives.



When in Tomashpil we went to the disabled Yura, who we wrote about many times in previous prayer letters from Ukraine. Despite his limitations, Yura was very pleased with our visit. We also saw in him deep joy and peace that the Messiah Yeshua gives him, whom he once accepted as his personal Saviour.



We visited also Mila's family, who you also know from previous prayer letters. Thank God for the strength and health that Mila has in raising her children.



At the end of our stay in Tomashpil, we visited the 80-year-old Yevgienia. Yevgienia, although ill, received us with joy. During her conversation with us, she recalled her times of childhood and a very pious father. During the war she survived the evacuation and all the atrocities linked to this. Yevgienia is a very cheerful person. The best she can, she trusts the Lord God of Israel and entrusts every day of her life to Him. At the end of our meeting, Yevgienia wished that God's blessing and joy would never be lacking in our lives. On confir-



mation of this, she sang to us in Hebrew the popular song: Hava Nagilla.

The next city to which we brought parcel foods, was Yampil. This is the farthest point to which our aid reaches. In Yampil we met with Anna and her son Boris, who for many years has been coordinating aid for needy Jews in this city. We ask you for prayers, especially for 83-year-old Anna, who is becoming more and more ill. Let's ask the Lord that both Anna and her son Misha would know as Yeshua their Lord and Saviour.

In Yampil we visited the 67-year-old El, who needed help with stent implantation. Thanks to God and your generosity we collected the full sum to carry out this procedure. El, with tears in his eyes, thanked us very much for this real help in his need. Just before our visit, he underwent detailed cardiology testing in a clinic in Kiev. The testing showed that El has additional vein problems in the places where the stents should be implanted. In such case, the doctors recommended that El would tempo-

El



rarily suspend the implantation of stents until his veins are adequately strengthened. Let's pray for El, that he can get this needed operation as soon as possible.

Another town along the route of our trip was Tulchyn. This is a specific town in which

very many Jews from the local community survived the concentration camp in Pechora. Among those who survived the Holocaust is 81-year-old Rita – the chairwoman of the Tulchyn Jewish community. During the war, in the harsh winter of 1942, Rita together with her parents, older brother and other Jewish residents of the Tulchyn commune walked to the concentration camp in the village of Pechora that was 40 kilometres from Tulchyn. Many weak and sick died or were shot along the road. Rita's parents died shortly after arrival at the camp, where they intentionally infected people with typhus, starved them and kept



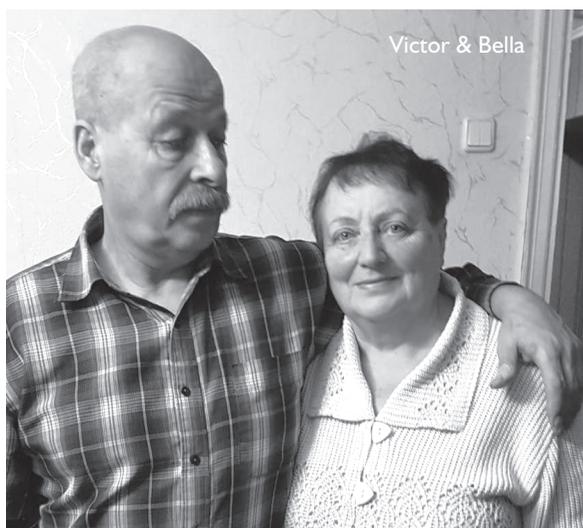
them in disparaging conditions. Rita's father was buried in a mass grave in the nearby Jewish cemetery. Rita's mother and older brother were buried in a nearby forest, where over twenty thousand Jews were shot. After these tragic events, Rita's brother became mentally ill. He wandered around surrounding towns until he was finally lost without a trace. We are grateful to God for Rita, who the Lord through the years of our friendship and cooperation has increasingly opened her heart to His Word. Oh, that Rita would know Him as her personal Saviour as soon as possible.

A similar fate was already met by the 84-year-old Raya, whom we spent the rest of the day with. She trusts the Lord as her Saviour. Thank God that in her ailments and



diseases she also has ongoing care from her son and also the nurse from the Chesed organisation.

We also brought packages to Sharhorod, once a thriving and prosperous Jewish town. Unfortunately, only a huge synagogue has survived to our times, which testifies to the former splendour of this city's Jewish community and the old cemetery on the hill, near the Murafa River. Currently, several Jewish fami-



lies live in Sharhorod. They receive our aid in the form of medicines and food packages. In this small town, we visited Bella and Victor, who for many years have been helping us in coordinating aid for the needy in this city.

We also brought packages to Murkurilovce, a very small village, in which only a few Jews live. While there, we met with the 87-year-old Michail, who cares for the needs of Jewish inhabitants of the village.



We visited also the 63-year-old Anna, who lives alone in very modest conditions. Anna was very grateful for the package that she received, particularly in this difficult winter period,



when the majority of her finances must be spent on heating of the modest house in which she lives.

While in Vinnytsia we also visited some of the people who we help. One of them was the 82-year-old Sabina and her husband, the

82-year-old Isaac. We are grateful to God that despite the modest conditions in which they live and many of the shortcomings they experience every day, they are both full of joy and hope. We ask for your prayers for Sabina and Isaac, so that in their lives they would experience the most important thing: the joy of reconciliation and entrusting their lives to Yeshua.



Sabina & Isaac

Later, we also visited Svetlana, who from the very beginning has been involved in the development of the messianic community in Vinnytsia, particularly in the framework of the “Synagogue” project. When Eleonora, who was taking care of one of the soup kitchens in Vinnytsia, moved with her daughter to Israel, it was Svetlana who took over in managing the



Svietlana

soup kitchen, who with God’s help successfully does so up to the present day. Recently, Svetlana had an accident in which she broke her arm. Given this and the unfavourable winter conditions, Svetlana spends most of her time at home. Please pray for Svetlana that her broken arm would be fully functional.

Like last time we visited Tania, who survived a serious fire in her home. Tania’s fate and the testimony of her life we presented in previous prayer letters. We are grateful to God for each of you, whom with your prayers and finances have contributed to the renovation of Tania’s home devastated by the fire. Tania with tears in her eyes thanked us for God’s



Tania in a renovated house

incomprehensible goodness and grace, which she experienced through the help of many brothers and sisters in Poland.

In Vinnytsia, we were also at the soup kitchen where we shared the Word of God and the joy of Hanukkah, for which the Messiah of Israel – Yeshua Himself is the reason.



Soup kitchen in Vinnytsia

In Vinnytsia, we also participated in the Shabbat & Hanukkah meeting in the messianic community. We are grateful to the Lord that He is adding more and more people to this community.



Shabbat & Hanukkah meeting in Vinnytsia

At the end of our stay in the Vinnytsia we met with Marina, her husband Sergei and their closest co-workers with whom they jointly run the ministry of mercy for the Jews in Vinnytsia and the surrounding area. We ask for



Meeting with volunteers of the Szamasz foundation

your strong prayers regarding our dear friends in Vinnytsia who are directly responsible for that ministry. Let's ask the Lord for Him to give them a lot of the wisdom and strength as well as His blessing in this difficult ministry. Let's pray for the further development of the mes-

sianic community in the city within the framework of the "Synagogue" project.

In Shepetivka, as always, we met with our dear friends at the soup kitchen, where we passed on greetings and shared testimony from the Word of God. Many of them with great sincerity thanked us for the packages that they received. We are grateful to God that this form of aid is also provided in Shepetivka.



In the soup kitchen in Shepetivka

The remaining time of our stay in Shepetivka we spent visiting people in their homes.

First, we visited the 58-year-old Zina, who from the very beginning was connected with Roza, helping her take care of the weak and incapacitated members of Shepetivka's Jewish



Zina with her mother and daughter

community. Zina lives with her 80-year-old mother and 32-year-old daughter. They live in very poor conditions, in a house that remembers the interwar period. They do not have running water, a toilet or a bathroom in their home. The entire water installation is located in the nearby shed, near to where there is a toilet. Their living conditions are becoming increasingly worse and harder, all the more that

the old house requires basic maintenance, such as the replacement windows or fixing the walls, not to mention other things for which Zina and her family can't afford even. During these visits we were very moved by what we saw. Despite the great poverty that has come upon this family, they are smiling, grateful and rejoice over every day that God gives them. Please, pray for this family and if any of you would like to help them in this difficult situation, you may send your gift to our bank account with the note "Help for Zina".

Then we went to Solik. After the death of his wife Mifa, Solik became very closed in himself and is difficult to make closer contact with him. Solik graduated from medical studies,



however his whole life he worked as a German and French translator, languages that he speaks freely. But now in his old age and loneliness it seems that he is losing contact with the surrounding world. Please pray for Solik, that a moment would come in his in which he meets Yeshua as his personal Saviour and Messiah.

We visited also the 70-year-old Raya, who by God's grace, after having a broken arm, is regaining full efficiency. However, her general state of health does not allow her to come to the soup kitchen, so meals are delivered to her home. Raya is very grateful for the care and assistance that she receives.



Roza and Zinov – our friends and colleagues in Messiah Yeshua, from the very beginning, are involved in various assistance for the Jewish Community in Shepetivka. In particular, they are involved in the proper functioning of the soup kitchen that they care for daily. Roza and Zinov survived many experiences. We are grateful to God that our Good Lord has led them through this difficult time for them. Please keep them covered in our prayers. We declare together over their lives God's promise and comfort written in Psalm 68:20-21: *Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.*

Looking back at the year 2018, we are grateful to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob for His wonderful help, support and blessing that we experienced in carrying out each project associated with helping our dear friends in Ukraine. From the perspective of the time gone by and many meetings in various cities where we provide aid, we noticed that among those whom we provide this aid that there is a specific need connected with purchasing dentures. Many of these people simply cannot afford prostheses, which prevents them from the proper consumption of food and has a devastating impact on the stomach and digestive system.

Missing teeth often prevent them in contacts with other people and causes that they are self-conscious and closed within themse-

lives. In thinking about that, we are moved to start a new project, with God's help, in which we could help certain persons in the purchase of dentures. We want to call this project "Smile". We ask for your prayers, for we know that *Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain*. Psalm 127:1a.

After our last trip to Ukraine, our hearts are overfilled with joy and gratitude to our Lord that in so many places we were able to meet with our dear friends, not only to give them material aid but above all to share with them the Word that gives life. This is the Word that was sown in their hearts. We pray that the seed of this Word produces an abundant crop for the glory of His Kingdom. Once again, we want to give glory to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who through his beloved Son, Yeshua, is faithful to His covenant and does not forget about His people in need. *Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness*. Psalm 115:1

The situation in Ukraine with prolonged riots and lack of stabilisation produce in our dear friends great anxiety and fears. In particular, we can see this in older persons, who survived the war and the Holocaust. Their concerns and fear are now even greater because for the elderly the nightmares of the past come alive with renewed force again and aga-

in. When looking at what is happening in their country, they are filled with anxiety and fear for their daily existence. The worst situation is among those who are sick, as unfortunately, their numbers are increasing. Once, simple medicines that people could purchase from their modest pensions, due to the drastic price increases, are now unattainable for them. For some time now we have been seeing a very disturbing regularity during our ministry in Ukraine: the older, more ill and infirm are the people whom we serve, the more the economic situation of the country in which they live is getting worse. So we see that the continuation and development of the projects that we currently run are now more necessary than ever before. Please pray for the further development of this mercy ministry in Ukraine.

It is through the faithful and practical commitment of each of you in this ministry that the Lord continually shows us anew that He remembers about both the spiritual and material needs of His people because Israel has not ceased to be His beloved nation.

On behalf of everyone who receives your help full of prayers and love, we pass on to you words of gratitude and greetings along with a blessing.

Shalom from Oświęcim