

1. Cor.
16:13-14

*„Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith,
be men of courage; be strong.
Do everything in love!“*

BIRTHDAY AND JUBILEE –CELEBRATIONS

I was so touched by an e-mail I received a few days ago from a friend in the US saying: „Inge, I still remember when this house was ‚just a dream‘ of yours!“ Celebrating now ten years of the Ner Yaakov home and center and looking back I can only thank God for bringing this meeting-place actually into existence. Many elderly from around the city, also some who have a hard time traveling because of health issues and also three survivors from Hadera, as well as some Israelis, a few police - officers and our friend Phillip from USA joined us for this feast. A man from Hadera, who came for the first time to Ner Yaakov said: “I am here for the first time, but I feel at home!” Meir shared a few words and sang together with Sima.

“I am still young and do not need help, but when you will invite me again, even if I have other plans, I will call it off and come again!” What was the blessing?

They felt “at home!” We showed photos from the beginning of my work in 1987 and from the past 10 years of the Ner Yaakov home. A highlight of the day was to plant trees, as it is traditional in Israel for the holiday of Tu Bishvat.

And now, -with God’s help we will continue!



Receiving birthdaykisses from Pavel



Meir, Pavel and Arie planting trees

*„Samuel took a stone and set it up. He named it: Ebenezer,
saying, „Thus far has the Lord helped us.“ 1.Sam. 7:12*

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

Today I want to introduce you to a different subject: „The 2nd Generation.“

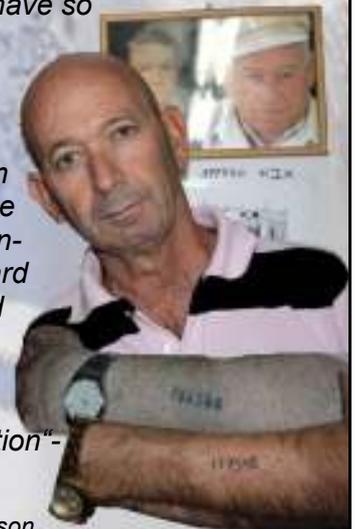
This is what we call the children of the Holocaust survivors here in Israel.

Let’s have a look at the lives of two of my friends, Avi and Schaike. I had the pleasure of knowing Moshe Jakobovitz, their father, who survived Auschwitz and died in 2009. Also their mother was a survivor. Seldom have I seen kids who honored and loved their father as they did. Avi shared: „In a way we are also ‚survivors.‘ From the time we were born until my father died, we lived with him in the Holocaust. It always influenced me when my father was sad and even if I could have had a good job in America, I loved my father and could not leave him alone. We always heard how our

Avi Jakobovitz with Martin Bauer at Ner Yaakov

family members were killed and food was a big issue. We had to eat, even if the food was burned. Our lives and up-bringing were not „normal.“ My parents were proud to have children and grandchildren who serve in the Israeli army. I will not forgive the people who did that. It is important for me, not to forget! Today we have to work together with the younger generation of Germans. We have so many enemies again, but it shall never happen again! - We are also survivors!“

Schaike the younger brother, who is very ill and on dialysis now, identifies so strongly with his father’s pain that he recently tattooed the number that his father got in Auschwitz onto his own arm. It is very hard to comprehend — and I do not know enough about the problems of the „2nd Generation“ yet, I am only learning, — but I understand, that with some „guilt and identification“ can be big issues. Schaike is not only dealing with the painful „family-trauma“ of the concentration camps, but also with the loss of his father and his own illness. It is hard to believe what happened to him last year. The family found a kidney donor and a doctor in South America and put a huge sum of money together to help him receive a transplant, but the donor stole the money and ran away and never gave the kidney. Today this man is punished and in jail, but the money is gone and Schaike still suffers! As I wrote in this short headline: „The Second Generation“ - „It is a subject for us to think about!“



Schaike Jakobovitz, photo of parents in background. -Two arms: Tattoos of the father and of the son.