

*„Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love...
for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through
bars of iron!“ Ps. 107: 15-16*

GUESTS, GUESTS, GUESTS ...



Matthias Gogolin

Judge Tom Glover, Raja, older photo

Arie with officer Philip Bozarth

„There is one thing we have learned by hosting our guests: Every group is totally different! But we also learned what is the same in every group: We need the Lord and his blessings for each of these reconciliation meetings! God alone knows what every individual needs and when we get good reports, .. we thank the Lord God!“

Why do the Holocaust Survivors come to these meetings?

„We want to talk! All these years we have kept it in our hearts..!“ answered Meir. „I want people to know what I went through and their interest brings me comfort!“ says Josef. Tova: „I feel it is good for them and that makes me feel good. Not everybody wants to hear..!“ Julia shared: „At first I did not want to share,- I felt ashamed that I am still alive and my family is not. Now I feel better as I share my story and each time I remember something else!“ What they all have in common is the fear, that their stories may be forgotten one day but also the hope, that our visitors will keep their testimonies alive, when they are not with us anymore.

Some of the testimonies of our Christian guests:

„For us it was not just a visit, but a ‚working-through‘ of German history! The openness of the people present made a deep impression on us and we do not take that for granted!“ Guest from Germany

„History becomes alive for us. Even if the pain of sharing is so great, the survivors shared without any hate!“

„Finally a dream came true and I could visit Israel. Originally I wanted to see as many biblical places as possible. That encounters with individual people could be so much more valuable for me, did not come to my mind. But that is what I experienced. Thanks be to God! The most important meeting for me was one afternoon at Ner Yaakov with Holocaust victims. Inwardly distressed, we listened to their stories. It is truly different to read about the incomprehensible atrocities of the Nazis and see documentaries, than to hear them from survivors who suffered them on their own bodies. Still today I have to keep my tears away when I think of a survivor telling his story. Unimaginable this suffering, these horrors he had to endure. And then, at the end a statement which almost ‚knocked me out.‘ He said: ‚But I forgive! We should forgive, we are taught to forgive!‘ All that was left in me was to cry! No sermon about forgiveness could have hit more in the middle of my heart. Since we were able to leave East Germany - a very unjust State 20 years ago - a deep hate against the Communist dictators stayed anchored in my heart. Totally blocked! And now, so many years later I hear from a man who went through incomprehensible sufferings: ‚But I forgive! We should forgive, we are taught to forgive!‘ I so much wish to be able to visit Ner Yaakov again soon. I want to say thank you and share what this testimony did in my life. Truly, my inner thoughts were put right on this afternoon. Thank you!“ Matthias Gogolin, Germany

„I have been sponsoring four groups from the US to Israel. We always visit Ya Vashem to learn the truth, but I am also convinced that my visitors should meet people who suffered through this horrific time and hear their personal stories. We visited Ner Yaakov. We learned how being moved from camp to camp was frequently a key to survival and momentary miracles often snatched an individual from the path to the gas chamber. We learned also how blessed our friends were to live in freedom in Israel and we heard the concern of all who spoke that the truth about the Holocaust would be lost when they died. Yet, they should take comfort that visitors to the center of Ner Yaakov will not forget. We were honored and privileged to be with them. We will always see their faces, recall their stories and NEVER FORGET.“ Judge Tom Glover, USA

„Very moved, we listened to the testimonies and had to keep our tears back. It makes a difference to hear the stories personally. What touched us

was the warm atmosphere and the acceptance we felt. No signs

of resentment, bitterness or rejection toward us as Germans.

We also learned that the State of Israel is the home of the Jewish people and we should support it! In this meeting we have received so much!“ Family Zabek, AKI



Teresa

Meir Reichert

Elke Zabek, AKI

*„Open for me the gates of
righteousness; I will enter
and give thanks to the Lord.“*

Psalm 118:19