

„A TIME TO WEEP AND.. A TIME TO MOURN!“

This next part is really hard for me to share: In only a few weeks we have lost several of our dear friends; but as I look back, I am thankful for some precious moments God had given to us on our last visits.

Raya passed away in May, after years of illness. In the same week I changed my whole work schedule to visit **Ifim Greenberg** at the hospital, not knowing that he was dying. These moments were very moving for me. Ifim with his last strength, hardly able to speak anymore, told me names of cancer patients and asked me to help them. Here Ifim was dying and in terrible suffering, but he was only thinking of others! The next day the Lord took him home. What an example! At a hospital visit to Sergei, we spoke about him coming to stay at Ner Yaakov. **Sergei** with tears said: „Inge, I will never forget what you have done for

me!“ This was the last time I saw Sergei! Who remembers **Vladimir Levinov**, whom we had helped to make aliyah? He, one of the youngest survivors, has just died of cancer. The hardest was to say „Good bye“ to our **Sachar**. How much we miss him! Truly, Ner Yaakov will never be the same without our dear house-father! I remember how sick he was when he came. We all prayed that God would prolong the days of his life, and he did! He gave him eleven years. Sachar was a gift! I am deeply grateful for a special moment I had in the hospital. We thought he was not conscious, but suddenly his head turned and he gave me a kiss on my cheek. “

Last photo of Sachar and Raya—together with volunteers

Ecc. 3

Job 2:21



“The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord!”

MANY DIFFERENT MEETINGS

If somebody asks me, what are the special moments at all the ‚Reconciliation-meetings‘ we held in the past months, then I have to say: „The really special moments were when the survivors tried to comfort us!“ A sister from the big group from P. W. Wangler and Gerlinde shared with me, that the most moving part of the afternoon for her was, that a survivor wanted to cheer the German group up, after they have heard many painful stories of survival. „We do not want to leave you with this sadness,“ he said, and started to sing and sing..!

The survivors were blessing and comforting us! These are memorable moments! An Austrian man, who came with a smaller group, listened intensely, and showed real courage. It seemed that he was for the first time in his life so personally confronted with the horrors of the Holocaust and also with his Austrian-history. I did mention the fact that the survivors deal well with honesty, but not with denial.

Gerhard asked to speak and cried - out from deep within his heart, saying to the survivors: „My father was a Nazi! Can you forgive me?“ At first the survivors looked shocked, but it took only a moment until they reached out to this Austrian man, telling him, that it was not his fault and they comforted him! The survivors comforting us!

Gerhard, our Austrian brother

Gerhard promised to share his experiences with his many friends in Austria. Seeing the hearts of many survivors who want us to „walk on“ without this terrible baggage of shame and guilt brought many questions up in me about healing, true fruit of repentance and responsibility. Maybe more about this next time. A group from Finland was very quiet. They did not have many questions and we asked them: „Why are you so quiet?“ A young woman answered: „This is how we Finn’s are, but now when we go back home, we

will never be quiet again!“

„A time to weep and a time to laugh..!“ Ecc. 3



Michael Grimberg is blessing the group of P. Wolfgang Wangler and Gerlinde Capdellaire with Yiddish songs