

OUR VOLUNTEERS SHARE:

"See, I am doing a new thing!"

Isaiah 43:19a

A FEW WORDS FROM INES:

God is changing people:

Before I came to Israel in April 2012, I was asked very often: "What are you going to do, when there will be riots or war in Israel?" I just put this question aside

Ines with Simeon and Ina from Ashdod with us in Ner Yaakov

and said to myself, "Surely there is nothing going to happen!" When I was in Israel somebody confronted me with the same question and I answered without any further thought: "I will leave and take a flight back home. After all, I am **only** a volunteer!"

Then the thought crossed my mind, that I might be taking it too easy, and what comforting God's people really meant to me? I was deeply ashamed and repented. I asked myself: Do I really fulfill God's plans or my own? And I slowly understood, that if God sent me to Israel at a time like this and I am in his plan, then I also have to stand with his people in this difficult time. After a while I realized that my attitude had changed and that I could now answer the same question with 100% certainty: "God has sent me to Israel, so I will stand together with Israel, especially at a time like this!" Then, when war really came, and the first siren sounded—even in Jerusalem—I really experienced God's presence. I felt deep inner peace and was surprised myself how calm I stayed. I knew: God is here! It was a real testimony to me [how my Israeli friends encouraged me: "God is in control!"](#) And I also knew that my time was in his hands. The Bible verse for this year was: Jeremiah 17:7 "Blessed is the man who puts his trust in the Lord." I experienced this very personally and I received this blessing during my stay at Ner Yaakov! It is a tremendous blessing and a privilege for me that I was able to serve the Israeli people and the Holocaust survivors. I want to thank Ner Yaakov and the survivors with all my heart for this unforgettable time. Thank you for the moments when we cried together and when we laughed together. Thank you for the warm-heartedness of every single one of you!

May the LORD bless you abundantly! With love, Yours Ines Ratz

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

KERSTIN HAEBERLE SHARES:

"First I had been in Israel as a tourist; the second time I came here as a volunteer. The first four weeks I stayed with an elderly lady in Tel Aviv to help her in everyday life...

Everything was so new to me—the country, the language, no Internet and no telephone of my own. I had to re-orient myself completely. From one day to another my everyday life had changed entirely.

After a while I could understand a little bit of what the new immigrants have to face when they come to live in Israel: everything is new! After 4 weeks I left Mrs. Steiner to move to Ner Yaakov in Jerusalem. I was very grateful for the time I spent with her and I was looking forward to visiting her again. Having arrived in Jerusalem we started with the Feast of Tabernacles celebration and as time went by I got to know more survivors.

Shortly afterwards I began with the outside work in the homes of survivors and whenever possible, we do the housework together, which gives us a lot of pleasure. Everywhere I went, I was so warmly welcomed and the people were very grateful. Even the relatives showed their appreciation much more than I ever expected. But this praise belongs first of all to our LORD and this brings joy to the ministry! I saw that the Holocaust is still very present in the lives of these older people and I believe that they see our small support as a personal estimation of their lives—of which they had been robbed during the Holocaust in a brutal way. For myself, I experienced many precious moments, where also I received a lot.

Then, suddenly there came the heavy rocket attacks and Israel's defense as a reaction to it: There were air-raid alarms even in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem! For me, this was a totally new situation. When my parents called, I could sense their worry for me. I myself do not consider leaving Israel, I was even encouraged by my friends when they said to me: "The LORD knew long before you arrived in Israel, what would happen." There is an immense power in faith! However, to feel this real worry of my parents is a challenge for me!

I had to think a lot of the young soldiers and I heard the painful worries of the survivors, when their grandchildren were called into the army. Now I am living here in Israel, and I am much more personally affected by it all and can understand the people better. But, we can also share the faith together that GOD holds Israel in his hand, that He Himself is the one who protects it and watches over it!" Many blessings, yours Kerstin

