

BLESSINGS FOR MICHAELS 80TH BIRTHDAY



Kerstin with Michael—Chanukah 2012

We were so thankful that Michael called and wanted to visit us at Ner Yaakov. He had been very sick for several months and unable to join our events. Nicely dressed he came to celebrate Sabbath - dinner, which we hosted for a few guests. One of our guests present made a joke, which—sorry to say—was not quite „kosher“ and everybody could see that Michael totally disliked it. In his very precious, child - like, but deeply wise way he turned to our guest and said: „In this home you cannot speak like that! Inge is very ‚afraid‘ of God and she says that God can hear everything. So you should not

„speak like that!“ The volunteers and myself were very touched by his polite and kind, but still firm words. It was a blessing for us! I think everybody received it well and we had a great evening in fellowship together.

Now in December Michael turned 80 years old. Actually he is still quite „young,“ and goes out as much as he can in the mornings by bicycle.

At our Chanukah party we surprised him with a cake and birthday blessings. Someone said, that he had tears in his eyes: „Be blessed, Michael and Mazal Tov!“

MENACHEM AND SARAH ZUR

Menachem and Sarah came from Pardes Hanna and stayed a few days with us. It is a blessing to also host survivors who came to Israel many years ago: „Real Israelis“, who share many stories about their lives here in the country and we get a lot of insight from them, as well as their personal history in surviving the Holocaust. Both came from Romania and both are survivors. One day I may share more about Menachem's story—he shared quite a lot, but today I will only touch on a little bit of his life and one of the incidents, which seems so painful for him until today.



Sarah and Menachem together with Meir Reichert, Chanukah at Ner Yaakov

„I was about 10 years old and we were driven away. Five families were brought to a synagogue, where we then lived. We put up sheets to separate little areas for each family. My sister was about 6 years old. From 9 till 11 o'clock in the morning the Jewish people were allowed to leave this place. Those who did not wear their 'yellow star,' were shot—even small children. My mother was able to work in a launderette and received a tiny bit of money, which she hid.“ Menachem was so hungry and bread was a dream. One day a friend told him, that a Romanian man had real flour to make bread and without the knowledge of his mother he took all the hidden money to buy 1 kg flour to make bread. However, at the end it turned out, that it was not flour at all. They could not use it and had lost the money as well.“ „Do you understand now,“ Menachem asked us, „why I never throw away any bread?“ By sharing this incident one could see, that this episode had followed him painfully all his life.

After the Holocaust Menachem was a member of the Jewish organization called: ‚Bnei Akiva‘ that promoted Aliyah, so he immigrated to Israel in the year 1948.

Menachem and Sarah joined our Chanukah party and so did Meir Reichert. Both started to talk and it did not take long until they found out that they both were in the same Army camp 62 years ago! It was a joyful meeting!

“I know, that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken away from it. God does it so men will revere Him!”

Ecc. 3:14

1. Polina with her brother Fima came to Ner Yaakov for a few days to rest — Sukkoth 2012
2. Kerstin with Arie
3. Inge with Mrs. Fish - Chanukah
4. Dvora and Yossi Alon, many years close friends in Ner Yaakov
5. Michael



