

SIMION AND INA FROM ASHDOD SHARE:

„He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd!“

Jerm.

37:10



Simion and Ina

Simion Michlin:

„I was born in Belarus and went to school there, until the war broke out! We were supposed to be quickly evacuated. At the Train Station were a lot of soldiers and many trains stood ready to transport civilians to safety. Then suddenly we were attacked! Our belongings

were stolen, and all the people ran in different directions toward the woods, in order to hide there and find shelter. There I lost part of my family! I felt completely lost and did not know what to do. So I made the decision to go to the area that was occupied by the Germans and find other family members, who should have been there. I was only 12 years old at this time! On my way I reached a town, which was guarded by Rumanians and there they created a Ghetto. I ended up in this Ghetto for several months until a Moldavian family—the family Rosenzweig—took me in. But we received warning, that the Nazis planned to liquidate the whole Ghetto and I decided to run away. I reached the city of Schaigorag, where an old woman, Frosia, took me in and cared for me. She told everybody that I was her nephew and so I worked as a farmer until 1944. It was terrible, because I was always in fear that the police would find out that I am a Jew. After the liberation I returned to my home town, Reschinitza, where I found my mother and several family members again. This was my childhood!“

Ina Kurgan—My memories of the war:

„I was born in 1937 in Odessa. When the war started I was 4 years old. I can remember my father being sent to the war front and my mother and brother and I were brought to a Ghetto close to the settlement Fomanjewka. It was really a horrible time: We heard the dogs barking, shootings, fearful sounds and the guards: Fear, fear, fear! Afterwards they brought us to another Ghetto, not far from a small town called Mariowka. There it was much worse! There they made experiments on humans and infected them with Typhus, two different kinds of Typhus. Whole barracks full of people died. Then they took the dead bodies, laid them on a pile and burned them. The ashes were scattered over the fields. This is how my mother died! My brother and I survived only by a miracle. Then they brought us to another Ghetto in the city of Perwomaisk, which was guarded by Rumanians. Like in every other place where Jews were imprisoned, there was hunger, cold and humiliations. But still the prisoners had the deep wish to survive and one day to live a normal life. For almost three years we lived under completely inhuman conditions. These experiences became deeply engrained in me. But I am very grateful—that after this terrible way of suffering in our lives—we met warm-hearted people who cared for us in very difficult moments and helped us keep on living!“

„Also today we receive help— we, the former victims of the Ghetto—through a wonderful warm-hearted person. A woman with German citizenship who gave her whole life for these survivors! We are her family! We became her children! Thank you Inge! Your warm-heartedness is warming our hearts! May God grant that there will be more people like you. Then there will be no more wars or concentration-camps!“

Ina

Aliyah:

Simion immigrated from Moldova in 1990. There was political unrest in Moldova and great fear that new Pogroms against the Jews would start. In unrest like this, it is always the Jewish people who suffer. Again Simion lived through difficult circumstances and only wanted to come home to Israel! Ina came to Israel in the year 2002, from Turkmenia. She also had a difficult time and said: „We only wanted to live in our own land!“

„I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord!“ Eze. 37:14b