

TENANTS AT NER YAAKOV: AMOS + SHOSHANA MADAR

„Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again. . . you will increase my honor and comfort me once again!“ Psalm 71:20, 21

„It's now almost 15 years that we have had the Ner Yaakov home. Amos, one of our neighbors has always been very nice to us. We did invite him and his wife several times on holidays. Amos is a Sephardic Jew and so it never came to my mind, that he—coming from North Africa— was a Holocaust survivor. But one day he opened up, sharing, that he was also a survivor, being born in Tunis, which was occupied by the Nazis.

Amos was born on the Island J' erba in Tunis on 1.8.1939. He shared what he was told by his parents: The Nazis had created labor camps and the Jews had to wear the Star of David. Valuables were stolen. The Nazis demanded from the two Rabbis that they collect 50 kg of gold from the Jewish community, or they would be killed. So Amos' parents understood they had to flee. They needed to separate: Amos went with his father, and his sister with the mother, each in different directions. This is what he remembers most: „I remember how my father held me by my hand and we needed to walk and walk and walk..! And we were separated from my mother!“ So they survived and later on found each other. In 1949 they tried to make Aliyah. On the way they had to stay one year in France until they finally came home to Israel in 1950.

Amos and his wife Shoshana have three daughters and one son. When I came home from my trip last winter, I saw in great shock, that their house had burned down. Terrible! With a heavy heart I learned what happened. They both are very good-hearted and Amos is an example in being helpful. So they rented out rooms: To a student and to an young Israeli girl, who had an Arab boyfriend. They were associated with another couple, Jew and Arab. Somehow a big fight started between them and they set the house on fire—not only burning down their home, but also the young student lost her life in the fire! Amos is heartbroken and needs psychological post-trauma care, mostly because of the death of the young student. We were glad to offer them our downstairs flat at Ner Yaakov. They have lived with us since early spring— and will stay until their own home is ready to be occupied again! It is truly a blessing to be able to give them a place to live! Amos is now facing the court cases: „I saw the fire-devil!“, he said and I know it stressed him very much! Please pray for them, that the Lord's righteousness will come forth!“



Shoshanna and Amos

„My comfort in my suffering is this:

Your promise preserves my life!“ Psalm 119:50

SARA, THE SERVANT:

„When I asked Katrin, what she thought about a meeting we had with Israeli youth and the survivors, she said, what moved her the most was Sara, our oldest in the „family“! Sara was not pleased, because these young people were too serious for her and she started to sing and cheer them all up, until they joined in. Usually she walks with a walker, but suddenly she—almost 91—asked me where the cakes were and she started to serve the young people. What an example and a blessing for us to see, that Sara felt, „like she was the host!“ Later on, at the Rosh Ha Shana party, one of the youngsters came back and made music for us!“

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

„The German teacher asked: „What gave you the strength to go on?“ „People can be stronger than iron! Children became adults way before their time. Even our clothes were big, so we could smuggle food. God has given me the strength! We built families and have grandchildren, that is the victory over the Nazis!“ Meir. Julia: „We ask you to be ambassadors for us, that nothing like it will ever happen again!“ Talking about the many train strikes in Germany this year, they said: „...if the trains would have only had a strike in the years 1943 and 1944....!“



Sara