INFORMATION AND PRAYER LETTER

...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. Mt. 25.40b

tel. + 48 338430667

www.shalomoswiecim.pl

e-mail: hope@pro.onet.pl

Nr 79 ISSN 2391-3983

1/2025

Oświęcim, January, February, March 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are excited to share the wonderful experiences from our recent trip to Ukraine, where we had the chance to serve and connect with those in need. It was an incredible journey, and we visited many places, providing both spiritual encouragement and material support through Hanukkah packages and food vouchers, all while sharing the Gospel of love and hope found in Israel's Messiah, Yeshua.

Throughout our time there, we met so many amazing people—some who were open to discussing their faith and others who seemed a bit hesitant. Each encounter taught us important lessons about humility and patience. It reminded us how vital it is to approach every conversation with respect and understanding. We believe that our efforts – through prayer, material support, and heartfelt conversations can truly reflect God's love, reaching out to touch hearts and inviting them toward salvation through Israel's Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our trip certainly had its challenges, as many individuals are living under difficult conditions, which made our support even more valuable. We distributed food parcels and, whenever possible, provided food vouchers that could be used in local supermarkets. However, the most rewarding moments were those personal interactions filled with words of comfort and prayer. We were especially inspired by those who, despite their struggles, continue to hold on to their faith and the hope they have in Messiah Yeshua. We kicked off our trip to Ukraine in the charming town of Shargorod,

which once thrived as the center of Jewish life in Podolia. With a fascinating history that dates back to the 16th and 17th centuries, it became an important hub for commerce and culture. Even after facing many challenges, including the tragic events during the Cossack Wars, the Jewish community has continued to be a vital part of the city's story. Today, the remaining members of the Jewish community are grappling with challenges like poverty and marginalization, which makes our support here all the more meaningful as we strive to provide both material and spiritual assistance.

While in Shargorod, we had the privilege of visiting 89-year-old Raya and her wonderful daughter, Zoya. Raya has a remarkable story; she survived the German occupation, escaping many dangerous situations. After the war, she became a beloved teacher at a local kindergarten, a tradition that Zoya is proudly continu-



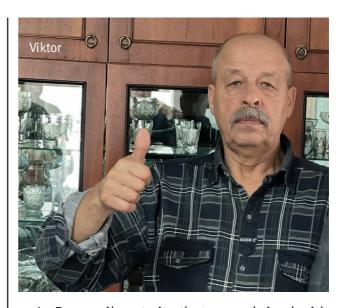
ing today. During our chat, Raya and Zoya shared their heartfelt sentiment: "If only everyone understood that it is impossible to love God and hate Jews at the same time..." We felt so blessed to connect with them and to share the message of the living God of Israel and the incredible salvation He offers His people. We'll keep Raya and Zoya in our prayers, hoping for their salvation.

We also met the inspiring Mila, who, despite facing health challenges, is actively helping Ukrainian soldiers. Alongside her colleagues, she tirelessly prepares camouflage nets for vehicles and troops on the front lines. Let's remember to pray for Mila, so she finds the balance between her dedication to helping others and her own need for salvation in Israel's Messiah, Yeshua. Our hope is that the Lord



will inspire her with the joyful message of salvation.

As our time in Shargorod came to a close, we had the honor of meeting Viktor, an incredibly kind man devoted to those around him. He and his late wife, Bella, worked closely to assist those in need within the Jewish community. Even after Bella's heart-breaking passing a few months ago, Viktor continues his important work, finding strength in his mission to help others. During our conversation, he spoke lovingly of his wife, sharing cherished memories of her strength and warmth. His words were filled with wisdom and peace. We pray that, like his beloved wife, Viktor will also experience salvation in Messiah Yeshua.



In Bar, a vibrant city that once thrived with various ethnic and religious groups, we had the privilege of meeting 92-year-old Ilia, a remarkable Holocaust survivor. After enduring evacuation to the northern Caucasus and eventually Uzbekistan, Ilia dedicated his life to agricultural work and even shared his knowledge by lecturing at an agricultural university. Despite all the challenges he's faced, Ilia remains a beacon of hope. During our heartfelt conversation about life, he expressed his desire to pray for salvation and warmly accepted Yeshua as his personal Savior. Saying good-



bye to Ilia filled us with joy, knowing he is in the loving embrace of his Messiah.

We also had the pleasure of visiting Svetlana and Mikhail, a wonderful couple from Jewish families. Svetlana is currently dealing with a few health issues, including oncological

challenges, gallstones, and spine problems. They are proud parents to two children – a son and a daughter – and are blessed with two grandchildren in Vinnytsia. During our visit, we cherished the opportunity to share the joyful message of salvation in Messiah Yeshua and pray for our loved ones. Let's keep Svetlana and Mikhail in our thoughts and prayers as they seek health and salvation.

Mogilev Podilskyi is another fascinating city with a rich history that goes back to the Middle Ages. Once a hub for Jewish culture and traditions, it served as a vital link between Ukraine and Moldova, fostering trade connections with Southern Europe. Sadly, during World War II, the local Jewish community suffered greatly under Romanian occupation, especially in the ghetto. Today, even though the Mogilev Jewish community faces many obstacles, the canteen we run in the local synagogue is a source of hope and security for them. Thanks to your generous support, we're able to help our friends feel connected to their community once again.

After we arrived, we met with many members of the Mogilev Jewish community at the



Holocaust Museum, which they maintain with great care to honor their history. Following a warm welcome, we enjoyed individual conversations where many people shared their heartfelt gratitude for the food coupons they received. Those who benefit from the canteen expressed their sincere appreciation for the vital support it provides.



We recently had the opportunity to visit some wonderful folks we're supporting, and we'd love to share their stories with you!

First, we met Yevgeny, a 71-year-old man who lives alone and faces some mental health challenges. Unfortunately, he's also dealing with a serious diagnosis of cancer around his left eye, which is progressing quickly. His only son lives in Kyiv and hasn't been involved in his father's life, which makes things even tougher for Yevgeny. However, we're grateful that he receives a warm meal every day from the canteen we organize for those in need.



We invite you to keep Yevgeny in your thoughts and prayers, asking for his health and for him to find comfort in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We also had a heartfelt visit with Syenya, an 87-year-old man who survived the Holocaust in the Dead Loop concertation and death camp in Pyechora, all thanks to God's grace and protection. Syenya shared how miracles in his life allowed him to survive, and he beautifully said, "It's not an art to celebrate, but to have God in your heart." We had the joy of sharing the wonderful news of salvation through Yeshua, the Messiah of Israel, with Syenya and his daughter, who listened with great interest. Let's pray that this seed of faith continues to grow in their hearts with the help of the Holy Spirit. At the end of our visit, Syenya expressed his gratitude by saying, "How won-



derful it is to know that someone is thinking about us and praying for us."

Finally, we want to highlight Murkurylovtse, a lesser-known but special place that has maintained its Jewish community for centuries despite many challenges. Today, there's a small community there that could really use our support. We are so thankful to God for the opportunity to distribute food parcels to help them during this time.

In Murkurylovtse, we had the pleasure of visiting 94-year-old Mikhail, who has devoted so much of his life to helping those in need within the local Jewish community. Now, however, he finds himself in need of support. Thankfully, he's surrounded by the loving care of his daughter and granddaughter. Let's keep Mikhail and his family in our thoughts and prayers, hoping for their comfort and salvation.

We also met the lovely 84-year-old Ludmyla, who is facing some health challenges. She was incredibly grateful for the care package we brought her. Ludmyla's life story is both touching and heartbreaking; she survived the horrors of the Holocaust, having witnessed the terrible loss of her mother. With the help of God's miraculous intervention and the kindness of neighbours, she and her sisters were sheltered during those dark times. After the war, Ludmyla went on to become a mathematics teacher, after completing her education. Though she lost her husband many years ago, her son currently serves as a soldier and resides with his family in Odessa.Ludmyla has a hip fracture, which limits her mobility, and she's been dealing with several other health issues that make daily life difficult. During our visit, we prayed together, expressing gratitude for her life and asking for her comfort and salvation. Please join us in holding Ludmyla in your prayers, so she can find peace and open her heart to the Saviour, Yeshua.

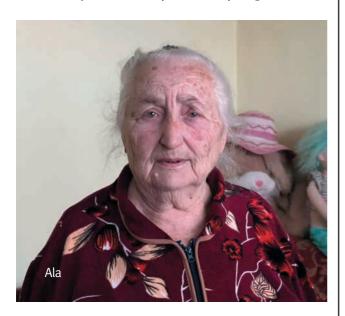
In the small town of Gnyvan, with its rich agricultural and craft traditions, the local Jewish community is facing some tough economic times. Despite these challenges, we've been able to provide assistance to many pe-



ople of Jewish origin over the years. Thanks to your support we've shared, they now have the chance to hear the wonderful message of salvation in the Messiah of Israel, Yeshua.

In Gnyvan, we had the wonderful opportunity to visit 85-year-old Ala, bringing her a food

parcel to brighten her day. Ala has an incredible story; her mother was Polish, and her father was Jewish. As a child, she was moved around to stay safe from the German occupiers during the war. Although her father bravely fought at the front, he sadly didn't make it to see the end of the conflict. [10] Now, Ala lives alone, having lost both her husband and her only daughter. We are truly thankful that she has found comfort in her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who fills the emptiness that her losses have left behind. She keeps in touch with her son-in-law, who makes it a point to visit her whenever he can. During our time together, we enjoyed a heartfelt conversation and prayer. We read a lovely passage from Psalm 85:5-7 for her: Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baka, they make it a place of springs; the au-



tumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion. (NIV). We would appreciate your prayers for Ala's health and well-being, so she can continue to trust in her Lord and Saviour every step of the way.

Next, we visited our dear friend Borys in Gnyvan, who is 83 years old. Borys has faced some tough times since losing his beloved wife, leading him to experience a deep emotional struggle. He also deals with various health issues, which means he now relies on social workers for support and can no longer

coordinate help for those in need in the community. Despite these challenges, he fondly remembers our years of friendship and cooperation. We're grateful for the chance to share



God's love with him during this difficult time. Please join us in praying for Borys, especially for his salvation.

As we shared in our last information and prayer letter from Ukraine, Lyna has taken on the wonderful role of coordinating assistance and service in Gnyvanfor those in need, pouring her heart and enthusiasm into her work.

Zhmerenka, once a bustling center of trade and industry, has a rich history of Jewish life. Over the years, its Jewish community played an essential role in the local economy, but today, like many other Jewish communities, it faces challenges due to poverty, worsened by the ongoing war and social instability. That's why our work here is so crucial! We not only help meet basic needs but also bring hope and peace to those we serve. The canteen we established has become a warm gathering place where people can fulfil their needs and find a sense of community and stability.



We're truly thankful to God for Emma! For many years, she has lovingly and diligently taken care of our canteen, ensuring that the most vulnerable members of our Jewish community have their basic needs met. During our recent meeting at her home, we had the chance to pray together and encourage her in her important charitable work. Let's keep her in our

Emma

prayers, asking that the Holy Spirit opens her heart to the salvation found in Israel's Messiah, Yeshua.

At the local synagogue, Emma and I had the joy of distributing food coupons to those in need. It was such a wonderful opportunity to connect with our loved ones and support them



In Zhmerenka, we also visited several friends in their homes. Among them were 75-year-old Mytya and his younger sister, Fyra. Mytya has a long history of serving in the army, but sadly, he has faced the harsh realities of anti-Semitism during the Soviet era. After suffering a brutal attack, he has dealt with serious health challenges. He gets by on a small



disability pension that barely covers his rent and food. Thankfully, his caring sister Fyra lives nearby and looks after him. Please join us in praying for Mytya and Fyra, that the Lord shows them mercy and the grace of salvation through Yeshua.

Before we left Zhmerenka, we visited a lovely couple: 70-year-old Lonya and 66-year-old Anya. Lonya is one of the few remaining soldiers who responded to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Sadly, many of his comrades have passed away due to radiation exposure. In our conversation, we reflected on God's grace in preserving Lonya's life, which reminds us of the importance of trusting Him as our Lord and



Saviour. Let's keep this couple and their family in our prayers, that the Word of God they've heard may bring them the joyful gift of salvation through the Messiah of Israel, Yeshua.

Vinnytsia, one of the largest towns in Podolia, has such a fascinating Jewish history that goes all the way back to the Middle Ages! By the 19th century, it was a vibrant cultural hub, with the Jewish community playing a central role in the city's life. Sadly, after facing many difficult events, including persecution during World War II, the local Jewish community needs our support more than ever.

A while back, we started a mission of love to help meet the practical needs of those who are struggling in the community. Our goal is to bring back hope, build relationships, and strengthen faith. The canteens we've set up have become wonderful spaces where people can come together, share their stories, and connect with one another.



We've also seen the rise of a Messianic community that's a blessing to everyone involved, providing a supportive environment to renew friendships and experience the love of Israel's Messiah, Yeshua. The prayers and the teachings that fill these gatherings truly inspire many to embrace salvation and grow in faith. It's a beautiful reminder of how the God of Israel can revive and bring His beloved people back to their roots, just as is spoken about in Romans 11:23–24: And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and

contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree! During a recent Shabbat meeting, we had the joy of sharing the Word of God and celebrating salvation in Messiah Yeshua with everyone there. Please know that we are sending you warm greetings from all those who participate in these uplifting gatherings!

While we were in Vinnytsia, we had the pleasure of visiting a lovely couple, Mark and Raya. Mark's story is particularly heartwarming. He



faced some serious health challenges and was bedridden for a time, but the Lord heard our prayers and brought him back to health! Today, Marek is doing wonderfully and enjoying life to the fullest. We're so thrilled that Raya and Mark have opened their hearts to the wonderful message of salvation through Yeshua! Let's join together in prayer that they'll embrace this truth and trust in the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour. Remember, that: For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart – Hebrews 4:12.

It was such a joy to meet our wonderful colleagues and volunteers who are committed to helping the most vulnerable members of the Jewish community in Vinnytsia. Seryozha and his wife Maryna have stepped up to coordinate this important work, not just in Vinnytsia but throughout the entire district! Their role invo-

lves many trips and visits, and while we provide essential material support, we're also focused on offering spiritual encouragement. We really appreciate your support and prayers for our dedicated team. Together, let's lift them up by declaring the comforting promise of Psalm 68:19–20: Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death (NIV).

Shepetovka might be a smaller city, but it has a fascinating history filled with diverse cultures and nationalities that have called this place home for centuries. The Jewish community has been here since the 17th century, contributing greatly to trade and crafts over the years. Like many communities, the locals are currently facing challenges with poverty and marginalization.

For more than twenty years, we've been dedicated to supporting the Jewish community in this region. Our efforts focus not only on meeting their material needs but also on providing spiritual comfort and peace. The canteen, which we've supported from the start, has truly become a vital part of this ministry. Every day, we prepare meals for many individuals who are struggling-not just to fill their stomachs, but to foster a sense of community and care among everyone. Many people who hadn't received help for years have found both material support and spiritual comfort here.We can't thank you enough for your generosity, which allows us to keep this canteen and others like it running. They truly serve as beacons of hope in these challenging times.

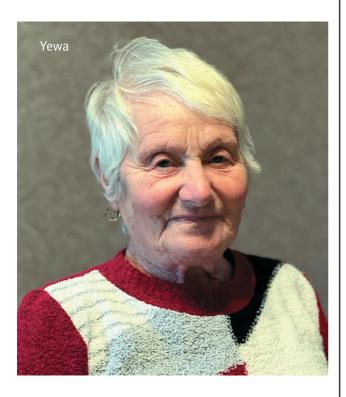
During our visit to Shepetovka, we had the pleasure of meeting some of the wonderful people we support. One of them is Alik, a former army officer who specialized in operational communications. His only daughter has been living in Moscow for many years now. After losing his wife, Alik's health started to decline, and he faced serious complications from diabetes. Unfortunately, he had to have one leg amputated, and during our visit, we discovered that the other leg is also in danger. The good news is that thanks to the support from his daughter and friends in Moscow,



Alik has been able to get medications that are helping to slow the disease's progression. This has given him new hope for healing. During our chat, we encouraged him to put his trust in Israel's Messiah, Yeshua. Let's join together in prayer for Alik's health and well-being, that he may find comfort in Yeshua, who said: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest – Matthew 11:28.

We had the pleasure of visiting 75-year-old Yewa, who has been a believer in Yeshua as her Messiah and Savior for many years. Yewa is a sweet, yet lonely soul. She spent 15 years working as a nurse in a local hospital, and after retiring early, she devoted her time to helping Roza and Zinov in the cafeteria, serving the

community's needs. Sadly, as Yewa's health has been declining, she's unable to continue that support. However, we are truly grateful to



God that, even in her loneliness, she finds peace, joy, and trust in Yeshua every day. Please keep Yewa in your thoughts and prayers; her arthritis causes her significant pain in her foot joints, making it hard for her to get around.



Next, we visited 76-year-old Raya, a dear friend we've been helping for many years. As a single person with a limited income, life can be quite tough for her. Raya is so thankful for the lunches and medications she receives from us. During the winter, we also help her with heating bills to make things a little easier. Although Raya's health has been slipping recently, her gratitude for the care she gets shines through. Let's pray that she continues to receive the support she needs and that she finds her way to the Lord Jesus Christ.

While visiting Lyza, we were met with heart-felt gratitude. Despite her challenges, she is thankful to God for the support she receives from her loved ones and from Roza and Zinov. The daily help is a boost for her both physically and spiritually. Liza shared her biggest concern with us: her son's battle with cancer. Fortunately, his chemotherapy has been showing



positive results so far! During our time together, we read the Word of God, which brings her comfort during this tough time. Let's pray that Lyza and her family feel the presence of the living God each and every day and that they place their trust in Him as their Saviour. Remember, He promises to take special care of His people!

Our last visit in the city was with Arcadiy, the beloved oldest member of the Jewish community, who is an incredible 95 years young! Even though he faces some health challenges, especially with his legs, Arcadiy beams with gratitude to God for every single day he gets to live. He shared heartfelt stories from his to-



ugh childhood during the war and spoke about the little miracles he experienced along the way. Let's take a moment to thank God for Arcadiy and pray that he continues to feel His love and trust Him as his Saviour.

After our visits, we headed to the canteen for a lovely dinner, where we had the chance



to chat and connect with the wonderful people we're helping. It was such a joy to share the light of our Savior, Yeshua, who came to this world out of love for His people and for everyone, bringing hope into our lives. We also made sure to pass along your warm greetings

and words of encouragement – your prayers and support mean so much to all of us!



We're truly grateful to God for allowing us to keep up this important work in Shepetovka, which has been a heartwarming journey for many years now. Thanks to your generous help, we're able to provide not just food parcels but also delicious daily lunches at the canteen. We are especially thankful for our dear friends Roza and Zinov, who have given so much of their hearts to this ministry. While chatting with them, we couldn't help but express our gratitude to the Lord for His endless grace and faithfulness over the years. Let's keep praying that He continues to bless them with strength, health, and wisdom – both physically and spiritually. I lift up my eyes to



the mountains – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth – Psalm 121:1–2. We're living in challenging times, and it's changing how we see the world around us. With the ongoing war in Ukraine and the global economic and health issues, we have noticed something remarkable: even in the face of hardship, some compassionate people recognize their struggles and needs. Many feel this as a sign of God's hand and His caring presence, which fills our hearts with joy.

We are truly thankful for the chance to help our loved ones during this time. Our efforts are guided by God's love for His people, and we understand how tough things can be for many right now. The uncertainty of what tomorrow holds makes it hard to know if we'll see some of them again. Let's pray that everyone can experience the grace of salvation through Yeshua the Messiah.





Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and kindness in supporting our ministry. [27, 28] Thanks to your generosity, those who received Hanukkah food parcels or food coupons are experiencing real blessings. They are genuinely grateful, and we want to extend their heartfelt thanks to you! As the Apostle Paul reminds us in Galatians 6:9: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Every project we take on brings comfort and hope to God's people. When we look at this beautiful work of mercy, born from our combined efforts and sacrifices, our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude. As it says in Psalm 65:1–2: *Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled. You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.*

Shalom from Oświęcim!

Passover Parsel

Dear Friends,

As we approach the upcoming Pesah and holiday in April, we invite you to support a powerful initiative that aims to assist needy Jews in Ukraine.

During this sacred time, as we celebrate the exodus from Egypt and the meaning of freedom, we are inspired to share food and hope with our loved ones in need. Our goal is to prepare food parcels or provide food coupons for those facing difficult situations. These parcels will not only contain essential everyday products but will also symbolize love, care, and solidarity during this meaningful period. Moreover, this initiative allows us to share the good news of the Lamb of God – Jesus, the Messiah of Israel – who came into the world to save all who believe in Him.

Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a significant difference. We encourage you to join our campaign and extend support to those in need. May the true joy of Passover, filled with hope for a brighter tomorrow, touch the hearts of all during this time. Your donations will help us meet material needs and illuminate lives with the light that the Risen Christ brings.

Join us in this inspiring initiative and help us bring assistance and hope to God's chosen people in Ukraine.



Publisher: Shalom Ministry Association in Oswiecim, ul. Rynek Główny 18/3, 32-600 Oswiecim • www.shalomoswiecim.pl
Banc Accounts: EURO: PL93124011701978001015771862 • US DOLLARS: PL231240117017787001015771905

Editorial team: Editorial team of the Shalom Ministry Association • Photos: Shalom Archive

DTP: Logos Press Publishing House and Printing House • www.logospress.pl