

Lifegate im November 2022

Eliminated: Yes, the German flag is also flying at half-mast for us, but then we still want to wish the other teams all the best and see fair and exciting games.

Even those who do not like soccer and were horrified at the corruption evident in awarding the games to Qatar, and heard of the many construction workers killed in accidents, can still rejoice a little at the reduction in traffic here in the country. The nation is sitting in front of the TV, you can reach your destinations without being stuck in traffic jams during the broadcast hours, and sometimes you can watch a good soccer match. This World Cup is very good for the Arab people (and countries) and also our Lifegate team is happy about the big participation of Arab teams. For the first time there were direct flights from Tel Aviv to Doha and Israeli reporters are interviewing people from Iran and Saudi Arabia in the stadiums and on the streets - that was unthinkable years ago.

Exhausted: In Israel, after the election, the scramble for ministerial posts and offices continues, and to satisfy some of the contenders, new offices and posts are invented to the "delight" of the taxpayers. **Many** people in the Israeli population elected the parties with their chairmen although these are radical politicians against whom there are charges and some of whom are involved in ongoing court cases and who in the past contributed significantly to the divisiveness of society. For these people, they now even want to change the laws to allow them to hold office. The example of Israeli politicians from the founding days, who selflessly dedicated their lives to building the nascent state, as well as a code of honor to face judicial accountability before holding government office, has largely fallen by the wayside in current politics. **All** people will now have to live with this, when these "role models" will determine the destiny of the entire country. Many people in Israel are shaken, perplexed and deeply concerned that democratic structures are being eroded or even abolished. The division in Israeli society is becoming more and more visible and has long since ceased to be fought out peacefully. Already, there is chaos and violence on our streets, and people lose their health and even their lives every day in simple traffic incidents with subsequent brutal outcomes. Demonstrations end with insults, fighting and injuries to people. The ugly face of Palestinian terror continued to cause injuries and deaths in Israel in November. In subsequent Israeli search operations for further potential assassins, Palestinians who offer armed resistance often lose their lives, and the spiral of hatred and violence continues.

As Christians at Lifegate we always believe in the power of positive change and in the power of prayer! Now we are all, each in his place with his crises in the world, seriously challenged!

Trained: We are happy about the long-term support of the Lifegate work by the "Paulustherapie" in Halle. This large therapy institution has been at our side for years with its managers and staff and supports us with practical aids and equipment, with the financing of a therapist position and every year with specialists who come to us for further training of our therapist team. Thus, we were able to welcome Susann Schreiber and Georg Neumann, a dedicated speech therapist and a physiotherapist, for further training at Lifegate.



Georg Neumann (blue striped sweater) with Izz and Issa our physiotherapist



"Susi" (second from right) with Lifegate speech therapists



Georg and Majd with Adham

Chosen: have Hannah Freddi and David and also Manuela a collaboration at Lifegate. Fred is a carpenter and social worker and will work in our wood department, Hannah is trained in PR and is ready to help everywhere if the sweet and bright Freddi (8 months) lets her. We are happy to have this young dedicated family who will support our work until January.



As an active Christian, Manuela Zeiss heads a German association that aims to support people in need in Beit Jala. This is how the committed lady became aware of Lifegate in recent years. When she told us during a visit that she trains young women in Germany as hairdressers, it "clicked" and an old "Lifegate idea" to open a small salon and also train young people in this craft, revived. In the meantime Manuela is supporting us for two months in the laundry and in other departments and cuts the hair of selected employees. We are now forging training plans for the hairdresser/barber and cosmetics training branch for the future and look forward to further developments!

Flown out: Lydia Schnarr came to Lifegate as an intern of the YMCA University for three months and, in addition to her cooperation with our social worker, was enthusiastic about all that is going on in the house and with the people and is happy to pitch in! Susanne Benz from the merchandise sales of Tor zum Leben Germany got involved in the Lifegate Shop and the cafeteria, as well as taking care of tour groups. She brought in many suggestions and new design ideas that we want to implement in the future. Susanne was visited by her husband Klaus during the last days of her stay. Gabi and Wulf Woehler actively support the guest work in Lifegate Garden and now that we are in the high season they are a particularly important help in the kitchen, dining room and in the garden care. In addition, as a former nurse and doctor, they also held consultation hours at Lifegate, where they looked at many children and young people and provided them with medical care. Gundula Bindig, Christine Wittig, Michael Gottschalk and Adalbert Grüning four friends from the Erzgebirge did a great job in Lifegate Garden. The many needles of the old pine trees, which had been lying on the ground for several years (fire hazard), were swept up and disposed of. Repairs and painting done in the guest house and our flowers tended and well cared for. Stimulating conversations and good fellowship while visiting a church and in prayer were also part of this profitable time.

Lydia Schnarr, Burghard, Susanne and Klaus Benz at the Christmas Bazaar in Jerusalem



Four friends from the German Erzgebirge region and Mr. and Mrs. Wöhler helped in Lifegate Garden





Having a fling: Volunteers are a help and a blessing for the Lifegate work! Besides the diligent work they do, they should also get to know the country and its people, gain experience and meet interesting people. If they return home having had significant encounters that have raised many questions and been a spiritual stimulus, but have also been left a little bewildered at the many beautiful and yet also painful things in our country, then their time with us has been worth it.



In November, our Lifegate children were travelling around in kindergartens and regular schools that had invited us and in the friendly institution Bet Al Lika in "Noah's Play Park". More and more the Lifegate children are noticed by the public and the regular encounters have already led to friendships between the children and the staff. Barriers have been broken down and overcome.





Unpacked: The American organization Joni and Friends sent us a container with 250 wheelchairs as a donation, which arrived safe and sound. These wheelchairs will now be adapted to the people who will receive them and then handed out in an action week in March 2023 where American employees of this organization will participate. Since we no longer have storage space in the Lifegate building, we now had to use our courtyard, which is hardly used in the winter. A plan for the construction of underground storage space in the backyard of the Lifegate building is ready and we hope to find ways and means to implement this project soon.





250 wheelchairs and aids have arrived well

Spread out: We constantly encourage and teach the parents of Lifegate children to make their own contributions at parent meetings, one-on-one meetings, and through an electronic communication system. Weekends, vacation times and holidays when the children are at home they should not be left without support. That is why every year we introduce parents to various educational games and materials, which they can then purchase from us or from local stores. Educational games and toys also provide ways for parents to interact with their children and should help to strengthen home relationships.



Tried: We call it "interaction and quality time", the time mothers of Lifegate children spend with us at the facility. Many moms enjoy the variety and activities they provide for their own and the other special needs children. Here, a mom prepares delicious cupcakes with a special needs group. The children can hardly wait...



Picked up: Young people at Lifegate learn to take responsibility for our building and grounds, are involved in house cleaning, and take trash to the public dumpsters. We hope that these experiences will also encourage them to become active in the home and also develop a bit of responsibility for the environment. Unfortunately, we find many littered properties and streets and many people's environmental responsibility ends at the doorstep. Nobody seems to care about it. Here we are once again cleaning our property from the garbage of passing cars.



Delivered: Lifegate Olive Oil 2022 will be shipped in mid-December and will arrive in Germany in January. The price of our high-quality oil has increased here in Israel and we have no alternative but to pass this increase on (as little as possible) to our customers and hope for their understanding.



Selected: A bible word

No more shall iniquity be heard in your land, nor harm or destruction within your borders, but your walls shall be called "Salvation and your gates" Praise, Isaiah 60:18

I would like to contrast these hopeful words of the prophet Isaiah for the land and the people of Israel with the less joyful introduction of this November report. The same prophet Isaiah announced Jesus Christ to us (Isaiah 11:1) and we will soon be celebrating his birthday again.

There is a future in this country and in our world that will look very different from the times we are living through right now. There, the news and television stations will report daily on the particularly good events where people help each other and stand by each other. We will no longer hear about catastrophes and wars because they will no longer exist, borders and religions will have become superfluous (because everyone knows the one living God) and in the words of Isaiah (65) the lion will lie down beside the sheep and the little boy will be able to play where the snakes and predators live without anything happening to him. From Jerusalem healing will go out to this world to the nations and on earth people will praise God for his goodness and grace. What "beautiful but naively wishful thinking", some of us may think? Probably people also thought so at that time, when Isaiah spoke of the shoot that shall grow out of the tribe of Isaiah and of the one who will one day suffer vicariously for mankind (Servant of God Isaiah 52).

There is actually only one way to correctly recognise right prophecy. When it happens, we know that the prophet passed on the truth he was told. Now we can simply dream, wait and pray that it happens soon, but we may and should already practice and implement what has already been given to us with Jesus and thus be daily very small „signs“ of the great and whole, the perfect and beautiful, which will come once in "His time". What remains for us from our year 2022 are many of these small and great deeds of love, the signs of hope and reconciliation that we were allowed to pass on and the burdens (our own and those of other people) that we were able to take off, carry and bring under the cross, where they shall remain forever!

Advent means arrival - I wish us all that love, hope and confidence, forgiveness and reconciliation arrive in these days especially in our hearts and that the love of Jesus makes our lives bright and joyful! Wishing you a blessed Advent

Burghard Schunkert

