

Lifegate im February 2023

The discontent in the Israeli population against the so-called "judicial reform" is growing after the law "Government determines the majority of judges of the Supreme Court" passed the first reading (of three) and a vote in parliament. The protests, demonstrations and actions are getting ever more intense. The police and security forces are drastically cracking down. In many Christian (Messianic) churches there are prayer chains for this country, on every day at least one church intercedes for the people in responsibility find a good and peaceful way back. We ask our friends to join us in prayer for prudence, reconciliation and peace.

The wave of Palestinian attacks on Jewish people, followed by further violence when the attackers or their helpers are caught by the Israeli army, has already claimed 70 lives in the first two months of this year. We are challenged every day to exemplify new "non-violent" ways of living together and to work for reconciliation.

Playing with our friends

After a long break, our wheelchair basketball team met for another friendly game with our Israeli friends in Tel Aviv. We have been meeting regularly for more than 10 years, first training and then playing together. This is not about winning, but about being together, sharing joy in sports and practicing community. Especially in these times this is such an important sign that people can overcome enmity and hatred and find ways to share a piece of life. We are happy that it became possible!

...on the way to Tel Aviv...





... Detour to the Mediterranean ...





...a Team...



News from the bakery

We did not expect that within just one month the number of customers would increase to over 100 people with weekly orders and our bakery is already very busy. We are pleased to be getting a lot of positive feedback. Maren Leonie and Wilfried Brandaus, our German bakers, are only with us for a limited time and a successor from Germany or Austria would be very welcome at the beginning of April. Still our local "apprentices" need the external support. Please spread the word!



Maren and Wilfried, the German bakers



Jusif and Issa, the trainees with Wilfried

Doing puzzles together is more fun

Our creative "mosaic department" was once again supported by guests from Germany in February. Five friends from Hesse worked diligently and several square meters of the wall covering were created. Soon the individual pieces will be attached to the outside walls to form a biblical landscape.





Nine young people from Saxony helped out in Lifegate Garden and in our workshops.

Two (not in the picture) shot a small film.



Robert and Hans Jürgen (center Ala) - two seasoned "Northern Lights" (as residents of north Germany are often called) - support us for one month in the workshops and in the group with severely disabled children



The long-awaited diesel generator has arrived, which should now compensate for our many winter power outages with its electricity. We are pleased to have fulfilled another requirement of the civil defense authority.



Kindergarten and special school

- Music therapy with our children, a lot of fun singing and playing our "Orff" instruments



We train fine motor skills: salt dough work and beautiful colors



In the large playroom: balancing and climbing, secured with soft mattresses



Gluing, sorting, kneading and splashing: Experience and feel the senses.



Our "Mothers Anti-Stress Program"

The mothers of our children with disabilities often strain under the burden of household chores, raising children and often the needs of very large families. At Lifegate they should be able to pause for breath and experience



collaborators in the furthering of their children. This is a deliberate "program" at Lifegate.



something that brings them joy and where they can be with themselves for once.

Here, for example, an invitation to breakfast followed by a game program.

The joy and attention that the women receive from us is contagious: „spreading“ to the children, the husbands and into the extended family. The mothers become our partners and collaborators in the furthering of their children. This is a deliberate "program" at Lifegate.

Leylasan received a cast and treatment with anti-spastic (Bottox).

This was the recommendation of the Israeli orthopedist who had thoroughly examined the girl. We hope that after the month in the traction bandage and with the help of the medication, the spasm of Leylasan will be released and the girl from our early intervention program will then find joy in walking again. This became increasingly difficult in recent months because the spasm had become too strong.



...Leylasan here at the casting at Israel's Alyn Hospital in Jerusalem...

Jaad receives new orthotics

Jaad likes to walk by the hand of his parents or our staff, but often he loses his balance and falls down. He can injure himself and therefore we readily considered the advice of the orthopedist and provided the boy with an orthosis (leg splint). These were made by the Israeli orthopedic mechanic and have been repaired twice in the meantime. The first time, the plaster cast and the conversion into plastic material are not always right so that the splint fits perfectly, but now it is done. Jaad now walks better and more securely than before without the orthosis.



... the orthopedic technician in Jerusalem makes plaster casts of Jaad's legs...



...almond trees and the anemones are blooming, the harbingers of the approaching spring...



Greetings

Your Burghard Schunkert

..while walking in Jerusalem on a sunny Saturday afternoon in February I and my wife passed this tree.

I had to look twice; are there lemons and clementines growing on one tree? Maybe it's two trees that are close together and look like one tree? In fact, there was only one trunk, one root from which the branches and the fruit emerged.

The bi.blical story of Abraham, the forefather of the Jewish and Arab people, came to mind, perhaps the cause of a millennia-long dispute of step-siblings, a father and two mothers, and sons with many descendants, who are very similar and yet also very different, already lay here. God has made the descendants of Ishmael into a great nation, and has given the descendants of Isaac many promises for the salvation of all mankind, which will also become a blessing to Ishmael's descendants when the enmity comes to an end.

...Maybe the gardener grafted clementine branches into a lemon tree?

The apostle Paul uses the beautiful image that Israel represents the root of an olive tree and that we have been grafted into this tree through Jesus. The root sustains and provides for us!

Could we learn from these trees that a divine root carries us humans and provides us with nourishment? Different fruits may grow, we may enjoy and share them!