

Lifegate in December 2023

At Christmas, we celebrated the birthday of Jesus Christ with our children, the young adults and our team with great gratitude for God's protection and His care for each individual person, but also for our work as a whole. We decorated the house for Christmas, we read and played out the Christmas story and the young adults watched the Jesus film together and got to know the life of this man. We lit lights and candles and our world became bright and the darkness had to give way. We want to pass on this light that it may shine into the situations in which we live. The unspeakable suffering of the people who hope that their family members are still alive and will be released from being held hostage in Gaza, the fears, the destroyed hopes and the lack of any perspective for the future. We ask Jesus daily for His preservation in body and soul and for the innocent people in Gaza who have lost loved ones and have no place to return to. We ask God to break the hatred of Hamas, Hezbollah, the Iranian government and many others who say "peace" and support the opposite, and to enter into the hearts of these people and show Himself as the Savior and Prince of Peace. We ask that the enemy be stopped. For God's help to stand by the traumatized people, to speak a message of eternal hope to the grieving Jewish, Arab and foreign people who have to bury their loved ones every day and to share their pain with them. We ask you to pray for us in Germany and wherever you are, because none of us has superhuman strength, we live from what God provides for us every day.

Early intervention work

We are delighted that Erik Prätorius is supporting our early intervention work and the educational work at Lifegate for three years. Erik, his wife Luise and their little son Samuel were not deterred by the new situation in the country and they came to make their contribution even in difficult times. During previous stays in Israel, and also with us at Lifegate, they got to know the country and its people and made a conscious decision for this country and the task at Lifegate. We are delighted that they are with us and wish them God's blessing and protection and a fulfilling and blessed time!



Special school

Children have fun preparing and doing handicraft work for Christmas at our special school. In the months since October 7, we have been able to provide our children and their parents with stability, balance, joy and hope in our daily support and activities.



Christmas preparations at school with a tasty lunch

Vocational training workshops

Our young people always particularly look forward to Christmas. Young people who have a sheltered workplace with us are actively involved in the program. For newly admitted young people, who often come from an Islamic faith background, we like to show the Jesus film, which begins with the birth, but then tells the life of Jesus and depicts his love and devotion to people, his way of renouncing the "sword" and dying on the cross on our behalf so that our way to the Father is possible and we may have forgiveness of our sins and renewal of our minds. Only one man offers this and no one before or after him! Many of us have a special relationship with Jesus whom we describe as our friend who is always there, who listens and understands and answers us. We have no fear of him, but trust him and trust in him for all good things!

Pictures: Charming Santa Clauses





A Christmas quiz designed with Peter our social worker



Contributions from our young people



„a little dance is part of every celebration“

Christmas party for Lifegate employees





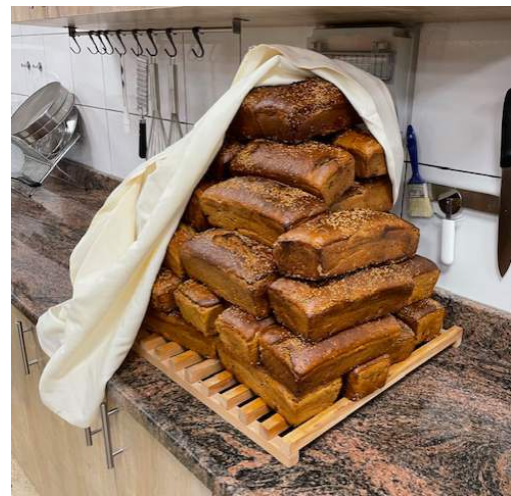
Team leaders who manage and are responsible for our work



The gifts prepared by Suher were of course part of it

From the Lifegate service departments

It filled us with great joy to be able to use the Lifegate bakery and our kitchen during these months to support people who are now almost destitute due to the loss of their jobs with a healthy sourdough wholemeal bread and a warm lunch every day. We also help with the purchase of basic foodstuffs and winter clothing for the children. This aid also reaches a hundred Israeli families who are also going through a difficult time (300,000 people have been evacuated from the south and north of Israel to safe areas). This was made possible by American friends, who in turn, through a German organization, are making this three-month aid for people in need possible. We are very glad to be able to alleviate a small part of the need and send a sign of love! We are in constant contact with the 700 or so remaining Christians in Gaza, whom we would like to support if the security situation allows. These Christians will then of course join us in helping the Muslim people in need!



Hot meals and good wholemeal bread for people in need in our area

Lifegate Laundry, which normally works for hotels and guest houses, is now limited to a few private customers.

At the end of the year we were able to carry out our inventory and had to count and diligently list our materials and tools in all departments.

Three examples of many active people involved in the Christmas markets for Lifegate all over the world:



Renate Becker/ Ebern Franken
Constance)



Pupils at the Bodensee School in Friedrichshafen (Lake
Constance)



"Premiere in Barcelona Spain" Torsten Neumann sells in a church congregation for Lifegate

The roses and bouganvilli bloom in our Lifegate Garden guest house and we are delighted to welcome local churches and organizations who book our rooms for day seminars. A small consolation for the otherwise absent foreign guests.



Lifegate Garden Guest House

A heartfelt thankyou at the end of the year

At the end of the year, we would like to thank all our friends and supporters and report that so many wonderful things have happened and that, at the close of this year we have experienced much care and support at the end of the year, which is a blessing that we can especially appreciate in these "expensive times"!

We were able to provide 250 children and young people with year-round, holistic support every day.

-Despite the loss of local income (guest house, laundry, visitor groups at Lifegate), we were able to continue paying our employees their monthly salaries and finance a Christmas present, thanks to the many people who have been particularly generous at this time!

-All Lifegate goods produced in our workshops could be transported to Germany even during the war and reached the Christmas bazaars. Our 2023 olive oil was sold out with the start of the war and the 2024 shipment is already on its way to Germany.

-Construction of the underground storage rooms in the courtyard of the Lifegate building has begun

- We have begun making use of the neighboring property we acquired and we are looking forward to building the play and adventure world for children in the new year.

-The funds for the expansion of an urgently needed additional floor have been made available to us although the start of construction work has been postponed until summer 2024 due to the situation in our country.

- In December, after two years of waiting for the vehicle to be imported into our country, we were finally able to put a new disabled transport vehicle into operation and we are very happy about our dream car!



Many friends keep asking about our well-being, encouraging us and praying for us.

Because Jesus is born and lives in our hearts, we look hopefully into a new year!

Because Jesus was a Jew and came for all people and wants all people to be saved, we stand up for the Jewish people and for the people from “all the nations”.

In the new year, we will continue to work towards good rehabilitation work for children and young people and want to continue practicing and living reconciliation.

We wish you a blessed and peaceful New Year and ask you to continue to support the work of Lifegate with your thoughts, prayers and gifts!

Yours sincerely, Burghard Schunkert and the Lifegate team

