

CHEVRA REPORT



Chevra means friendship. Our goal is to help our people in their time of need.

APRIL 2012

HELPING IS EASY!

Please consider supporting Chevra with your donations.

Please note our new giving address in Worthington, OH, effective immediately.

ONLINE ▶ At our website: www.chevrahumanitarian.org
Visa, MasterCard or Paypal
If you have questions about online donating, please e-mail from the 'Contact us' page on our website.

MAIL ▶ Send checks to:
Chevra USA
P.O. Box 168
Worthington, OH 43085-0168
U.S.A.
Please, never send cash or currency!

CHEVRA USA

Chevra is the American entity for our international effort. Chevra's work is a way people can make a real difference in the lives of many people in need.

OUR FIRST CONTAINER ▶

Our first container was placed in Ashkelon. It included clothing, furniture, and other necessities. We will keep it restocked, and the items will be distributed by a local humanitarian work in the land. This way we help them in their work, and the items help holocaust survivors, orphans and other poor in the land.

Please help us send more containers to the land. We are in the process of sending a second container now. It costs us \$3,000–3,500 per container.

Thank you all for your support of our work as we try to help the Jewish poor!

Sincerely,

Michael Schiffman,
Chevra USA



LETTER FROM CRIMEA ▶

Following is a letter from Crimea sent to us by Sasha Zlotoverow.

Shalom, dear brother Irek. Greetings of love in our Lord Yeshua the Messiah. I also pass the greetings from the members and believers of our congregation.

We participate in the same ministry as the congregation in Zhitomir. Currently we reach out to Jews in Crimea in many ways. The brothers and sisters of our congregation help me in this ministry. By God's mercy we hold the main worship on the Sabbath day, which is attended by 20–35 people. We also have worship services on Jewish holidays, which gather up to 70 people. We have a choir, which consists of 6 people. In addition we have services during the week: twice a week we gather for the prayer service; once a week for the Bible Study; once a week for brothers' fellowship; and for the initiation of Sabbath. We also hold a service at the Nursing Home, which gathers 10 people. We visit people at homes. Most of those we visit are sick and elderly Jews, some of them are members of our congregation and we bring communion to them. We visit seekers and non-believers

to preach the Good News.

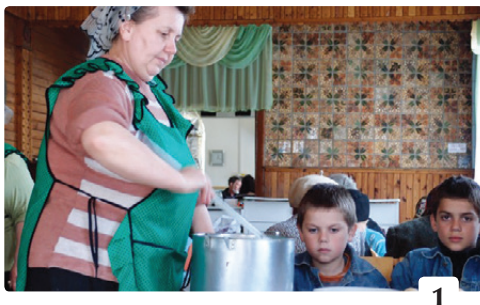
The ministry in other cities (Sevastopol, Sudak and Jankoi) consists of visits with the goal to start congregations in these cities in the future. Please support us with your prayers. We also want to start a ministry for young people in Simferopol and prepare five people for the baptism. Among other spiritual needs I would like to mention the following:

1. Please pray for the auditoriums for the main service and Sunday school for children, since the authorities want to take them away from the offices which rented these premises to us.
2. For the House of Prayer, which would make us independent from local authorities in this respect.
3. For the spiritual unity and growth of our congregation in the Lord.
4. For growth of our congregation.

The congregational funds are spent to cover the rent for the two auditoriums (for the main service and Sunday school for children), organization and celebration of holidays, food bags for poor Jews we visit at

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REPORT FROM UKRAINE ▸



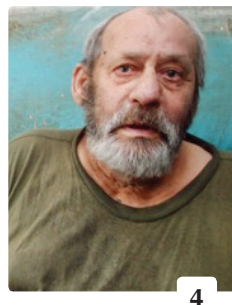
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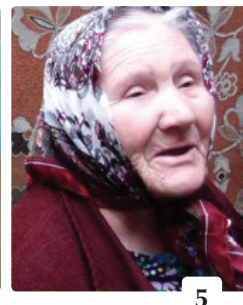
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Irek has been with a group of young Polish Catholic and Protestant volunteers in Ukraine.

In Ukraine is not so easy situation. Social help does not exist. The soup kitchen in Berdichev, where poor Jewish people eat (*photo 1*), has run for 12 years. Before World War II, 90 percent of the population lived in Berdichev. Today, 160 people are fed (60 percent of whom cannot walk and who have volunteers to carry them home). The people who live in the ghetto, invalids, orphans and widows, those are

Letter from Crimea continued ▸▸

homes, medications, in time of critical need. Our congregation doesn't have sufficient funds to cover the transportation expenses to other cities of Crimea completely, thus we do not make frequent trips to other cities. I also ask you to pray for the financial stability of the members of our congregation, for housing needs for my family and Vladimir's family (Vladimir is a brother who helps me in the ministry). I also have a personal prayer request—that God would bless me with a child.

Shalom. God's blessings in Yeshua the Messiah,
Sasha



members of the soup kitchen. As we see it in the pictures, Jewish children who are orphans and poor and have not any help from outside.

- **Zina**, 82 years old (*photo 2*), survived because she was evacuated to the Soviet Union. In the Volga republic, she survived and returned to start a new life without a father and family. Zina was involved from the beginning of the work in the factories and workplaces of military cadres, and lives alone today mostly for very little money. Her pension is \$100. She has big problems with high blood pressure and insufficient money to treat her. In the soup kitchen we have the privilege to feed Zina and that's why she can normally exist. She is full of hope and does not complain, and hopes for better days. She gives us a smile and strong embrace and treats us like family.
- **Raya** is a 60-year-old Jewish lady (*photo 3*). Since she was a child she has had a severe case of total muscle atrophy for this reason has been disabled from birth. She cannot

always move herself; someone has to be close to her and help.

Raya's mother died three years ago. She is alone. Raya is a person that we found a few years ago where two Jewish women, her mother and she, lived without sanitary conditions. The fact is that we met her one day and, thanks to God, her life changed.

The rotting flat today has repairs and now is a nice clean and well-kept room. Raya, who was neglected and not cleaned (because she and her mother were disabled) 12 years ago when we met her for the first time, now shines and looks nice and the room is clean. Today she says she is grateful to God that one day we met each other. Baruch HaShem!

- By God's grace, recently we've met married couple **Nahum** (82 years old) and his wife **Irina** (71 years old) (*photos 4 & 5*). They live in terrible sanitary conditions (*photo 6*), without any social support. Our volunteers bring their lunches from the soup kitchen because they are not able to move. Their



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situation is very difficult and we pray about the possibility of systematic support for them.

Nahum is a child who survived the war when all of his family fled from the Nazis. They were probably attacked by the Germans, who conducted air raids on caravans of fleeing civilians. He lost his parents, who were never found. Being a child survivor and having to live in the Childrens' House left a mark on his life in consequence, and led him to the situation in which we met him. We would like to help them as we can.

- **Natasha** is a 57-year-old Jewish woman raising her son alone (**photo 7**). She is a member of our soup kitchen and because of this she can survive. Natasha has no work, so it's a great help for her.

For two years Natasha has been fighting cancer. We have a deep faith and hope that the prayers which we raised for the first time two years ago (when Natasha asked for it) the God of Israel through the Messiah Yeshua (in whom in that time she believed) will help in the problem in which she was found. Natasha is full of faith and lives with joy and hope and enjoying every day. We stand behind her and pray. Please pray for Natasha!

KIEV

- **Baruch** (89 years old) and **Shlomit** (76 years old) live in harsh conditions (**photo 8**). After emigrating to Israel and receiving Israeli citizenship, they came back after many years to Kiev for a visit. Baruch became seriously ill and had a stroke. Thank God, he survived and can function normally, but he has a weak heart, diabetes, etc. But life has been very hard because they do not have any allowances from the state because they are no longer citizens of Ukraine. They must move from place to place, where we meet them, and specifically Ina, our coordinator in Kiev, who has been helping them for almost a year. Baruch can not fly to Israel, because each blood pressure can kill him. Through this hard situation they found their Messiah Yeshua. Baruch is a former prisoner of the camp, and Shlomit survived by escaping to Russia.
- **Larisa** (62 years old) and her daughter, Lena (37 years old) live alone (**photo 9**), mother with her daughter. Larisa has a serious problem with her eye; she almost can not

see. For many years she worked as an accountant, but today she has a very small pension and a daughter who is dependent on her. They are members of the Messianic community in Kiev.

BORISPOL

- **Halina** (84 years old) is alone after surgery (**photo 10**). It is suspected that the cancer develops. She takes medicine but it does not help and she has pain. Her parents lived through the evacuation of the Far East of Russia. Halina was found by the Germans and shot. She miraculously escaped death and she was hidden in a pigsty in the forest. Today, she is living in poor conditions with little pension. Her psyche was very weak after the war, and she wasn't able to learn. However, after several years she has graduated university. Her marriage was not successful—her husband was an anti-Semite—and shortly after that she divorced. Today she is full of life and has a smile on her face and says, "One day I did not think that God existed; now I know for sure that He does!"

FASTOV

- **Jan Kashorovski** (71 years old) was born in the Leningrad blockade (**photo 11**). They escaped to Siberia and miraculously survived. After the blockade of Leningrad they came back to live in one room with six people under one blanket. Only his grandfather worked and had coupons for food, and only he had work from a six-person family. During his stay in Siberia, Jan was frozen and started to be ill and his health was strongly affected. For 20 days he lay unconscious. Today he is sick and lives in extremely poor conditions, with no possibility of survival. He has many serious illnesses as well as muscle atrophy. Thanks to the *chesed* of the Jewish organizations and us, he could eat and still exists. He needs a cure because without this he can quickly die.

BELA CERKIEV

- **Rosa** (90 years old) is a *Yiddishe mame* ("Jewish mama," **photo 12**). Past Stalingrad and evacuated. She was an accountant, her husband also was Jewish and died a few years ago. Today she lives with her son **Mikhail** (**photo 13**), 49 years old and

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unmarried. Together they receive \$100 per month. They live in poverty (**photo 14**). After World War II, they returned from evacuation to their home, only to find Ukrainians living in their house.

YIRPIEN

We also visited the Jewish community in a small town called Yirpien, nearby Kiev. They still have 200 members of the Jewish community there. They could not exist without our help, and the parcels we brought could feed many families (**photo 15**). We are helping them

with renting an office where they can celebrate Pesach,

Shavu'ot, Rosh Hashana, etc. It is very important for them because they can keep their Jewish identity. We are very grateful for that and we bless them, we support and pray for them in the name of God of Avraham, Yitzhak and Yaakov. We are always very welcome by their hospitality, and having a meal and hot tea together and feel like one big family (**photo 16**).

VINNITZA

A few more photos from Vinnitza: The soup kitchen in Vinnitza (**photo 17**); a Jewish lady who is 101 years old (**photo 18**).

Shalom,
Irek

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Chevra USA is very grateful to First Fruits of Zion for covering the cost of printing and mailing the Chevra Report, thereby ensuring all your donations go directly to helping people in need.