
HANDS OF MERCY ISRAEL

ADOPTION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Adoption Story –October 2015



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YAAKOV AND ROSA A.

SDEROT

Yaakov and Rosa A. are elderly Holocaust survivors from the former Soviet Union. Yaakov and Rosa live in Sderot and they have recently become great grandparents. The birth of their great grandchild 2 months ago has brought Rosa and Yaacov much joy and great relief from the tension and economic hardship experienced by their family in Sderot.

Yaakov was six years old when his homeland was occupied by the Nazis and he had numerous traumatic experiences during the Nazi occupation. Yaakov's earliest memories of the Nazis are from the age of 6. His father saved his family from deportation by falsely declaring his family's heritage as Turkish rather than Jewish. Since the Nazis were uncertain of the family's ethnic origin, they accepted that they had no connection to the Jewish bloodline and permitted the family to remain in their country. However, Yaakov's family lived in fear every single day that the Nazis would discover their secret and seek vengeance.



During the occupation, Nazi soldiers demanded the family to give up their home. However, Yaakov's grandfather refused to bow to their demands. As he was standing firm, refusing to relinquish the family's property, the soldiers dealt a severe blow on him. Yaakov remembers running up to his grandfather to help him. Another terrible memory Yaakov has from that period is being humiliated by a Nazi soldier. The soldier ordered him to hold out his hands. After he had done so, the Nazi soldier began to relieve himself in Yaakov's hands, passing urine, then feces. The soldier then demanded Yaacov to eat his feces. As Yaacov refused to do so, the Nazi soldier held a gun to Yaacov's head.

While recounting his painful memories to our team, Yaakov occasionally had difficulty breathing and needed reassurance. As he was comforted by our team members, he explained that each night as he lays down to sleep, he relives a deep sadness for his family.

If you and/or your congregation would like to help this dear family find The L-RD's help through this difficult time, check out our website for the 'Adoption-Sponsorship Program' and contact us for details.

www.Israel-HandsOfMercy.Org

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