

Living Shadows of Dachau Concentration Camp by Nancy Kurtz

We rode the train to Dachau. Our train was not like the train that the Jews rode. Our train was nice, clean, had seats and although full not packed so that everyone had to stand and not move. Our train had heat and air moving through it, announcements were made in pleasant voices and we were allowed to eat and drink, in fact food and beverage is sold on the long train rides. I let my mind travel back to the train rides that the Jews and undesirables rode to Dachau, cattle cars full of standing people, unable to move, no food or drink, no heat or air circulation, just standing, standing, standing until the end. I wondered what the people thought, the bewilderment and confusion they must have felt not knowing where they were going or why. I thought of my Survivor and what she must have felt when the train stopped and the children, her children, were lined up outside and shot and then the train moved on. The pain in the mothers and fathers hearts was intense. I can hear the cries on the trains and see the heads hanging.

Dachau, Hitler's first concentration camp, became the model for the other camps. From the outside street it doesn't look like what it was. A person could pass by without realizing the pain and horror that went on just beyond the trees and shrubs that surround it. Once inside there is an atmosphere of suffocating oppression and depression, confusion and terror, hopefulness and hopelessness of the people held there.

Our excellent tour guide explained so much to us. As he spoke I could visualize the people standing for hours at morning roll call, heads down never looking up. The dead were carried out to roll call because everyone had to be accounted for while others died standing waiting for roll call to finish. Everyone stood with bald head and eyes down, in submission.

We saw the barracks that were built to hold fifty persons and later held five hundred as Hitler had more and more Jews, political prisoners, gypsies, homosexuals, physical and mental defectives rounded up. With no increase in the toilets or water it is not hard to smell the stench that arose from the barracks. Typhus ran through the camp killing thousands, but there were thousands more to take their places. I wondered how anyone survived, mentally or physically. I wondered even more how they, the survivors, live today with the scars of Dachau or any of the other concentration camps carved on their minds and hearts.

Not only were the concentration camps physically debilitating, but the constant mental stress became overwhelming. No one knew from one day to the next if he would live or be called out for execution. Of the living, no one knew what their assignment would be for the day, or would they be rounded up and marched off to some other place. Always an atmosphere of uncertainty and terror prevailed, keeping people in submission and obedience. While God likes us to submit and be obedient to Him it is never through force, terror or confusion. It is quite the opposite. God is clear, loving, and provides direction.

We saw the crematorium, more like an incinerator, where the dead were burned. As the number of dead increased and the number of furnaces did not, two and three bodies were thrown in one furnace. Notice I said thrown, not placed. Placing a body shows respect and the Jews were shown no respect. They were housed as trash, treated as trash, crumbled and broken, and when dead treated as stable dung.

Around the camp was a grassy area the prisoners were not allowed to set foot on. Beyond the

grass was a channel of water and then a little grassy hill bordered by an electric barbed wire fence. There was enough voltage in the wire to kill a person. Beyond the wire fence was a wall of stone. The wall of stone was not so much to keep the prisoners in as it was to keep the townspeople from seeing what was going on inside the camp. I wondered if people did not deliberately step on the grassy hill and was told that in fact people did do that. Feeling abandoned by God, the only choice left a person in the camp was quick death over slow death.

There is so much more to tell of Dachau. Each person that lived and died in the Holocaust has a story to tell. It is our responsibility today to keep the walls of disbelief torn down, to answer the questions of how this happened in order to keep history from repeating itself.

I believe keeping the stories alive provides respect for the persons who experienced grievous disrespect. Thank you for adopting a survivor. -Nancy Kurtz, Director of Survivor Adoption
[reprinted with permission "Grafted In" Fourth Quarter, 2009 AHI]

WHERE in the WORLD is Susan in 2009 & 2010?!!

Dec 2009	Israel
<u>2010</u>	
Jan 5-14	PA
Jan 14- April	TX and YOUR STATE West & Central **
May, June, July	Israel
Aug, Sept, Oct	TN, PA and YOUR STATE Northeast **
Nov, Dec	TBD **

**** Susan is now scheduling for 2010;** secure a spot soon as times are limited. For available dates and times:

Call: *NOW* 210-249-8401 or *AFTER* January 5th 717-542-8810

Email: info@abundanthopeinternational.org

NEWS IN ISRAEL AND THE USA

Germany Today

A WWII Bomb, discovered still live under the train track ahead of us, caused a detour in our (Susan and Nancy) trip north from Munich, Germany. Amazing as that was, since we were there to learn more of the Holocaust, we later discovered a woman over 5000 miles away was prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray concerning a bomb, for safety, for us by name. The Lord is not slack in His care of us. Today they are still finding WWII bombs and mines buried seventy years ago. Pray for safety in Germany, for discovery of these hidden dangers and for the German people for reconciliation with the Jews.

Pedicures Plus!

Each year she comes from the Netherlands, prepared to serve Holocaust Survivors all over Israel. By giving professional pedicures she helps restore, and gives relief to, nails and feet. Praying for them, listening as they cry and pour out their hearts, relate history and mourn the past, she works tirelessly to honor these forgotten ones. Our grateful "Thank You!" to B. for her love, her heart and her service!

Live Concert in Akko Community Room

Fingers running across the old piano keys, M. performed Russian songs from the 40's for approximately 50 Jewish elderly and Survivors. Swaying with the music or singing along it was obvious they were all enjoying themselves. A few sat back with eyes closed, transported to another time with memories long gone. During one rather haunting melody, faces betrayed a past lost while tears were wiped away. Following that were rousing tunes accompanied by stamping feet, smiles and clapping hands. Ending with Israel's National anthem, they stood proudly in honor of their new country. M. was feted and congratulated by an grateful audience. We hope to repeat this again for other Survivors and elderly, once again giving them honor in a meaningful way.

Air Miles Flying Away

Are you collecting air miles when you fly but not receiving enough to use for yourself? Before those miles expire, you can give them to AHI! By doing so you can help those in AHI who need to fly to Israel or in the US to accomplish the work for our Holocaust Survivors. Please consider donating this greatly needed gift. Call 717-557-5775 or email [Alfred Hill ahill@libertyrides.com](mailto:ahill@libertyrides.com) for more information.

Blessings One Head at a Time

After training by B., S. now gives free haircuts for the Holocaust Survivors in her town. But is it "simply a haircut"? No, it is much more. With each one a blessing of Elohim is pronounced over them. What a privilege for S. to be the hands serving and the mouth speaking the Father's blessing over His Children of Israel!

Care Through Prayer

As Susan has been traveling in Israel she's evaluating the impact of almost six years of AHI service to Survivors with amazing results. Each Survivor who has been adopted and prayed for consistently looks younger, has more energy, improved economic status, positive outlook, better family relations and looks forward to visits and prayer. The consistent prayer of their adoptive families has changed their lives with signs and wonders following! Contact Barbara Hill, 717-557-5775, to join us with *care through prayer!*

Establishing a Legacy in the "Scroll of Remembrance"

As 2009 closes we tend to think about how fast time is advancing; signs of the end times as told by the Prophets— reminding us of our mortality and what we do with our lives. While on this earth though our bodies are finite, we can establish memorials which will testify of our love, written in God's "scroll of remembrance.

"Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard.

A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. "They will be mine,"

says the Lord Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession.

I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him." Malachi 3:16&17

There are several ways to include the Holocaust Survivor work of AHI in your final Will and Testament, establishing a legacy, estate tax deductible, of your care and love for His Chosen

People. Further, when a major asset is sold that might cause large income taxes, a split gift in a Charitable Remainder Trust or a Remainder Gift can be made to AHI as a memorial while retaining the use of property during your lifetime.

To find out more contact: *Alfred Hill, CPA, at ahill@libertyrides.com or call 717-557-5775 today and learn of different ways to establish a legacy for the Holocaust Survivors in your name.*

~ A FEW WORDS ~

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth...” Isaiah 53:7

When you are persecuted and treated wrongly, what words do you say? Is your “Sunday talk” different from your “Monday walk?” Let’s be the light God meant us to be and pray for those who insult us and treat us wrongly. If we cannot pray for and return to them blessings of Yeshua, then let our other words be few.

Hearts of Gold

In less than one week at Beit Shalom, some wonderful connections were made. **B&R** came to see Beit Shalom, hear about the work of AHI and meet their Survivor for the first time. **R&J** came to Israel with the express purpose of meeting their own Survivor whom they have been writing for two years. They brought and presented her with handcrafted gifts, new heirlooms to replace those lost when she was sent to Bergen-Belsen. **F&C** met their Survivor, N., sharing lunch and embracing him as their own family.

After several of our guests left more arrived, having just visited Jerusalem- but they had a surprise for us. While in the Garden Tomb someone asked them to take their picture. In the ensuing conversation they discovered a common thread- one had just LEFT Beit Shalom and the other was heading TO Beit Shalom! After exchanging names they prayed for and blessed one another. Such divine appointments are arranged of God, frequent in Israel, but we never tire of them! We just ask, “How does He DO that?!” It’s God’s demonstration and confirmation of His love for each of us!

Susan Heagy, President

*For donations, checks should be written to “**Abundant Hope International**” or donate online with a bank or credit card.*

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