

Today's Hope!

February 1, 2010

www.abundanthopeinternational.org

A Shaky Future

As the soldiers marched away from the wooded area, she came out from under the bushes where she had been hiding. Behind her was her village, burnt to the ground; in front of her was the massive ditch of Ponar where all her family, friends and neighbors had been shot, murdered. She alone survived.

Shaking, her feet collapsed under her and she fell to the ground. As if from a distance she heard a wail of grief begin to rise. Suddenly comprehending it was from her own chest, she clamped her hand over her mouth to keep from giving herself away. The forest had ears.

She had nowhere to go. Her home was gone; every person she knew was dead. With only the clothes on her back and an enemy behind every tree, where could she go for help? How would she live? More importantly, *did she want to?*

It is now some sixty-nine years after the Holocaust and the same questions are being asked:

"Where can I go for help?" "How am I going to live?"

"More importantly, do I want to?"

Depression is prevalent among the Survivors of the Holocaust of WWII; they have a higher incidence of attempted suicide than any other elderly group. The pain of losing loved ones, experiencing trauma often too horrible to share and never free of the dreams... they are among the Survivors we are seeking to help.

What can the Survivors of Israel expect for their future? Some live in rundown housing; some with limited money for medicine; some are getting by. But they all have one thing in common, and that is their need for companionship and love. No one can thrive without knowing someone cares for them.

We at Abundant Hope International are dedicated to bringing relationships to the Holocaust Survivors. The Lord brought us together to offer a Visitation Program in Israel, a World Wide Adoption Program for Survivors in Israel, a Food Coupon Distribution and Sponsor Program, a Hospitality House to increase the Volunteer force and honor our Survivors and a commitment to educate the public around the world about the Survivor's continued suffering. But we are finding out that is not all...

The Lord is calling us to a new level, a new need, providing for an uncertain, shaky future for so many of these precious Survivors. He is calling us beyond anything we have ever done, to a commitment so beautiful, so impossible for us to achieve on our own, we know it is God. We like it that way. Please join us in prayer to hear the Lord clearly, completely, and to follow His perfect plan.

In the last few months God has been speaking and showing us amazing things!

In the next few months, we will share those amazing things with you.

For now, pray with us...

DID YOU KNOW...

...IF JEWISH PARTISANS FIGHTING DURING WWII DESTROYED NAZI OUTPOSTS, WEAPONS OR KILLED SOLDIERS, THE GERMAN FORCES TOOK REVENGE? THEIR RETRIBUTION TOOK MANY FORMS LIKE KILLING JEWISH CHILDREN IN THE GHETTOS OR DESTROYING ENTIRE VILLAGES, BURNING INNOCENT CITIZENS IN

THEIR HOMES. BECAUSE OF THIS, JEWISH COUNCILS IN THE GHETTOS, CHOSEN BY THE NAZIS, OFTEN FORCED THE PARTISANS TO STOP FIGHTING.

WHERE in the WORLD is Susan in 2010?!!

Jan 29-Feb 15 WA, OR + KKPZ w/ Inez Weissman, AFSI
McAfee's, Roseburg, OR
Feb 5 *Americans For a Safe Israel* www.afsi.org
Feb 6 Heritage House <http://love-4-israel.com/>
Feb 18-Mar2 Corpus Christi and South TX**
Annaville Baptist and Bill Word's
Mar North TX **
April TX and YOUR STATE West & Central **
May - July Israel
Aug-Sept TN, PA

**If you are in the area of these events, please join us!
Call [717-542-8810](tel:717-542-8810) for locations, times and directions.**

**** Now scheduling Call: Susan at [717-542-8810](tel:717-542-8810) or
Email: info@abundanthopeinternational.org**

NEWS IN ISRAEL AND THE USA

Something New- Susan's Blog!

Such a strange word- a blog; sounds like something that sucks your shoe right off your foot if you step wrong in the forest. Fortunately, that does not apply here. If you want to find out what Susan does between newsletters, here's your chance. Go to www.abundanthopeinternational.org mouse over the drop-down "About Us" and click on "Susan's Blog" We welcome your comments!

Eleven Chestnut Saplings

Saplings have been taken from the aging tree outside where Anne Frank spent two years hiding from the Nazis before being betrayed and losing her life. The 150-year-old tree is battling a lethal fungus. One will go to a newly created Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove by Dr. John Steiner (Survivor of Dachau and Auschwitz) at Sonoma State University, CA. Ten more to other USA locations. Life will continue on in the spirit of Anne Frank: *"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."* - Anne Frank, murdered in Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp, 1945

We agree with Anne. Improve the world for one of the Survivors who, unlike Anne, made it through the Holocaust. Adopt a Survivor today. Call Nancy Kurtz at 717-592-0859 or email adopt@abundanthopeinternational.org Don't "wait a single moment..."

Prayer Coming Your Way!

In the next few months you may receive a phone call from someone within Abundant Hope International. Our purpose is to offer you prayer and verify

your information. Most likely it will be Walter, our PA Public Relations Officer! May the Lord bless you!

Beit Shalom– Room at the Inn

People are calling and emailing, arranging their reservations at Beit Shalom Hospitality House. Before your room is given away, make your reservation by email beitshalom@abundanthopeinternational.org or in the USA call Cookie at 1-361-242-1565 or in Israel, call Edwin at 972-04-981-0737. It is truly a House of Peace and your room is waiting for you!

His Name is Izik...

Slowly opening the door, Izik looked out at us. It was hard to see us in the dark and dingy hall; the lights no longer worked. Navigating the stairs in the dark to reach the top floor had been a challenge for us, but what must it be like for this elderly gentleman when carrying his groceries?

As we entered his apartment we could see the furniture was old and the rugs well worn. It was clean but in slight disarray. It spoke of someone who lives alone. Unable to stay long, we had come to help Izik try on a new coat and give him a hat to match. My, what a change in his countenance! He smiled, stood a little straighter and began smoothing his hand down over the brand new felt jacket. Though we did not share a common spoken language, we all understood the language of love. With a hug and a kiss we were gone. But the love of God we left with him lingers on...

A Tribute of Thanks

Sitting around a table in 2005, a group of friends discussed the idea of formalizing the work begun for the Survivors in Israel in 2004. To go forward, we needed someone to handle the finances. One newly retired woman, Kathy, offered to help for "a limited time, maybe two years."

As she began setting up the financial system to accept donations and funnel the funds to the Survivors, she called on her daughter for help. AnneMarie, a computer whiz, created an Access program, designing it just for us and we were ready to go!

Now 2010, it has been a little over the "two year" mark Kathy requested and AHI has grown to amazing proportions from our humble beginning. During this time the computer program designed by AnneMarie evolved to handle the various directions in which God guided us.

Today Abundant Hope is ready to make the leap from our "cottage industry" beginning into the professional world. We have grown beyond our borders (and our computer program) and God has lifted our tent flaps to claim the land as far as we can see.

Kathy's job has been divided among three people as she now enters SEMI-retirement. :) Nope, we aren't willing to let her go yet!

For the timely and continued contribution of Kathy and AnneMarie we say "Thank you!" It can truly be said that we would not be where we are today without your help and expertise. May the Lord bless you for your commitment to our Survivors and your precious friendship!

~ A FEW WORDS ~

“As the Lord commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua did it; he left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses.” Joshua 11:15

The words almost leapt off the page at me! As I read this verse I was amazed at the significance of what it said” “he left **nothing** undone..” (emphasis mine) Joshua completely fulfilled what the Lord wanted done. But it wasn’t even a direct order from God; it came through Moses, Joshua’s leader, his mentor– his boss.

What a legacy it would be for God to be able to say that about us. Whether it is our boss at work, our parents at home, our ministry leader, our spiritual mentor, our spouse, or our friend... but especially God. Are you fulfilling *what God has given you to do* by following the instructions through those He set in authority? Are you being obedient to do God’s Will? Today is a good day to begin!

A New Direction

The first time I met her was in my home for weekly Sunday meetings, gathering with visitors from church and sharing a meal. It was obvious that prayer was an important part of her life.

As I advanced to the point where God called me to Israel, she became an important prayer supporter as I hugged Survivors and learned about a new culture.

Once again, when it was time to seek non-profit status to continue the growing work, she was there to pray with us and help us through the next steps.

So, it seems perfectly natural to have Elva Spoor now join our AHI Board and take the position of Corporate Secretary Elva lives in Texas, is a mother and grandmother, a busy office manager, a Bible Study leader, an avid Spurs fan and has a deep love and compassion for the lost and needy.

It is truly our privilege and honor to have Elva join our Board. She will be working in several areas. In addition, Elva will be making occasional trips to Israel or other parts of the US as needs arise. So, don’t be surprised to see Elva at Beit Shalom or visiting a Survivor or call AHI and she answers the phone. Who knows? Maybe soon we will be asking “*Where in the World is Elva?!*”

-Susan Heagy, President

*For donations, checks should be written to “**Abundant Hope International**”
or safely donate online with E-giving at www.abundanthopeinternational.org*

USA: Contributions:	AHI, P.O. Box 760183, San Antonio, TX 78245 financials@abundanthopeinternational.org	717-557-5775
E-Giving:	Alfred Hill, CPA, Treasurer ahill@libertyrides.com	717-557-5775
Adoptions:	AHI, P.O. Box 3055, Shiremanstown, PA 17011 adopt@abundanthopeinternational.org	717-592-0859
General Info:	info@abundanthopeinternational.org	210-249-8401
Israel: Beit Shalom Hospitality House	7 Yigal Yadin, Akko ISRAEL Mailing address: P.O. Box 8217, Akko, Israel	+972-04-981-0737
Reservations:	beitshalom@abundanthopeinternational.org	1-361-242-1565 (USA)

Abundant Hope International is a 501©3 non-profit organization and completely dependent on gifts and donations.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please email ahi.todayshope@gmail.com or write to the San Antonio, TX address above. May the Lord bless you!