



# NEWSLETTER

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73. Years Israel  
15th April 2021

Jerusalem-Day  
10th May 2021

Jerusalem of Gold - Ofra Haza

[https://www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=JH8gtdDA5x0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JH8gtdDA5x0)

**He has told you, O man,  
what is good; and what  
does the Lord require of  
you but to do justice, and  
to love kindness, and to  
walk humbly with your  
God.**

Micah 6:8



## Dear Friends and Supporters

We would like to dedicate this letter to a very difficult and painful issue that we are dealing with in Machaseh – Human Trafficking. We would like to share a few stories with you. The names and some details are changed to protect the identity and privacy of our clients.

Unfortunately, Israel is still a destination for human trafficking, and there are sometimes very unusual and "creative" ways how to facilitate it. We want to share the stories of three women, one Ukrainian, one Palestinian and one Ethiopian. They have only one thing in common - here in Israel they are not considered as human beings. They are items, goods, that can be used for profit, even by their own family members. For us it was a shocking discovery and shaping our traditional view of what slavery is and how it is operating. We apologise that it will not be easy to read. May God help us with his mercy, wisdom and strength.

M. was 19 years old, when she met her future husband, who came from Israel to visit his family in Ethiopia. They got married immediately and she came to Israel, full of expectations and dreams. But in her worst nightmares she couldn't imagine what was waiting for her. She was forced to work in cleaning from the morning till night. Her husband took all the money from her and denied her medical treatment and didn't allow her to study Hebrew. He even cut off the connections to her family and friends.

He forced her to use contraceptive pills for more than two years. In spite of that she got pregnant,. Then he was beating her badly and threw her out on the street, because her "husband" didn't need her anymore. He also went to the Ministry of Interior and let put her on deportation list, stating that he doesn't want her anymore. Social worker put her into a community shelter where she could give birth to a baby boy and wait for the deportation. Her husband wasn't ready to recognise the baby as his own child. After a long discussions with the manager of the shelter and the lawyer, we decided to fight for this young mother and her baby to help them to stay in Israel at any cost - in the name of justice and mercy. This lasts now for three years and we are still fighting for her legal status in Israel and that the Ministry of Interior is changing their decision. But for now there is some victory: she got removed from the deportation list, and her son got Israeli citizenship as well as alimony from the father. And we will continue to fight.

R. was born into a devoted Muslim family in Bethlehem. When she was fourteen, she was sexually abused by family members. Since then she is like a pariah because she was made guilty for what has been done to her. She dropped out of school and was basically locked up at home. When she was seventeen, she got sold as a second wife to a man who physically abused her. He rented an apartment for the purpose to sell her to other men that he brought to her. Even when she was pregnant, she got sexually abused in the nights, and forced to work in the day time. When she gave birth to her baby girl, she tried to escape and to find shelter with her family, but her father returned her to her "husband." After a few years of this horrible life she fled to Israel with her daughter. Without legal status she had no choice but to prostitute herself in order to provide for her child. When we got to know her, our main concern was that her six years old daughter might also get sexually abused. So we were looking for the possible solution and at least to find safe place for rehabilitation and protection.

We were able to find her a place in a shelter in Israel who were ready to take a Palestinian family. Because they cannot go back to Bethlehem, and also cannot live legally in Israel, we are working now on the possibility for them to relocate to Germany and to get a refugee status there. It was very surprising for us to find out after a conversation with a social worker of a welfare agency in Berlin, that it is much easier for them to give protection in the refugee camps to Muslims. In the contrary it is very difficult to protect Christians. They are ready to help them when the travelling restrictions will be lifted. So now we just pray and hope that God will be merciful to this suffering mother and her child.

N. came from Ukraine to Israel about twenty years ago. She was a school teacher and was promised work in a kindergarden. When she arrived in Israel her papers were taken from her, she got raped, beaten and locked into a brothel in Tel Aviv. But she managed to escape from her handlers. The police found her on the street and gave her legal protection and temporary residency because she was ready to testify against the pimps in court.

Her life in Israel was not easy. She got married and she gave birth to two boys. But husband turned out to be violent so she had no other choice but to run away again. When we met with her, we were amazed by her strength and perseverance. It was unbelievable how she was able to receive all the support we were giving her. She was willing to learn Hebrew, to study for a profession, to take care alone on her boys, and after all to be ready to help others, when she started to volunteer with Machaseh. When she was asked if she would like to go back to Ukraine, she was always answering, that even with all the terrible things that happened in her life, she loves Israel and she is thankful to God that she can be here.

**We thank you, dear friends for your prayers, friendship and support.**

**We wish you a blessed Shavuot /Pentecost - Chag Sameach.**

**And we hope that the time will come that we all can meet again in Jerusalem.**

**Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem, as we have a lot of worries and attacks these days.**

**With love and blessings from all of us!**

**Your Machaseh team from Jerusalem**