

N.H. Switzerland

When I met Lena in Switzerland, I got deeply touched in my heart so that I wanted to support the work of Machaseh. From my hundreds of diverse impressions, different activities and experiences I would like to highlight especially one contact. (In Israel things are working different than you think). After some changes in my program, I got assigned to a nice Jewish-messianic family that origins from Africa.

The social worker from Machaseh took me to a suburb of Jerusalem. From a dark staircase we came into a nice, clean and cosy apartment.

The mother of the family shared her health problems with me, because she was facing a risky surgery. But I am a nurse and not a Doctor, so my education is not sufficient to give her a second medical evaluation. But I could discuss the next steps with her, because the children couldn't take care of themselves during the time of her surgery and recovery. While the social worker discussed more details with the mother in an African language, I took care of the youngest son. Even without a corporate language there are certain things you can do together: folding ships and planes from newspapers. This was great fun for the son! So you can conquer new land with newspapers!

The following visits I made alone – and praise the Lord I could find my way with bus and train. The mother needed help with showering because she was partially paralyzed and afraid to fall in the bathroom. Then my involvement with the family developed into 'some special operations' to make new order in the closets of the children. The mother was not able to take care of anything. She just left the house for Dr. visits so the children brought all kind of stuff. After sorting out everything, I could bring a number of suitcases into the distribution center, so that other poor families could benefit from it. For the mother it was a great joy that all the closets are in order again and that you have a good overview now... also that this could be a blessing for other families.

The shoe cupboard on the balcony for example was a special project: last year a bird has built his nest there and the children were afraid of the bird so that the cupboard was 'taboo' for them. When they discovered the cleaned and newly organized cupboard, they spontaneously hugged me with joy in their eyes. This was the most beautiful thank you I could imagine. Yes, and of course we still did the showering and I gave the mother some safety instructions with a special board for showering.

As a nurse this is of course the right thing for me to do.

At my last visit with the family I was very impressed and felt ashamed at the same time: the mother told me that she was fasting for three days and then continued with drinking, not in order to ask for her own health but to pray for other poor people, especially members in her congregation that suffer of cancer. I was deeply touched by her attitude and engagement in prayer. So we could built a beautiful relationship within a short time. It was a privilege for me to get to know this Jewish family and to support and to encourage them. Just sad, they are living so far away from me.