

## A Day in the Country

The wider scope of the Adopt a Holocaust Survivor Program was clearly demonstrated on a special day in June. It is wonderful that Survivors are being adopted and receive specific care. However, those not yet adopted are remembered as well. Thanks to those who give to our General Fund we were able to reach out to an additional fifty Survivors by organizing an unforgettable day out.



Survivors were picked up by bus in the morning from their homes in or around Haifa and transported to the Golan Heights. Most of them were elderly survivors from the former Soviet Union. Since arriving in Israel as part of the massive Aliyah from that region, they have never had the opportunity or the means to tour their Homeland. Driving across to the Golan on this delightful summer's day with commentary by an official Tour

Guide was enjoyment enough and there was an atmosphere of great excitement on the bus. But more was to come. They were heading for Keshet Yehuda, the pre-military Academy located in the beautiful undulating hills of rural Golan where they were to be hosted. This would be truly a day in the country.

**"Although you have been forsaken and hated ... I will make you the everlasting pride and the joy of all generations."    Isaiah 60:15**

Upon arrival at the attractive grounds, they made their way to the large dining hall. There they were met by little children from the local kindergarten greeting them with posters that said 'We love you'. The children delighted the visitors with a short song and dance presentation.

*L'Chaim's co-ordinator Daniel Braun said, "The thing that especially inspired me was the fact that children from the kindergarten aged 5-6 were here to receive and welcome the "children" from the class of 1937, children whose childhood was spent in a living never ending nightmare. Today the spirit of the class of the year 2009 is bringing back to life the spirit of that "kindergarten class of 1937" and brings them health, comfort and love."*



***"I will put My spirit in you and you shall live and I will place you in your own land..." Ezekiel 37:14***

After a luncheon, the Academy's Rabbi and students put their musical skills to work as they played guitars and other instruments. As they sang and broke into dancing, the event became a spontaneous expression of Jewish celebration. For the Survivors, it was a moment to remember and enjoy, particularly as they had been denied such experiences under communism in their former lives. The sense of elation and peace was palpable according to ICEJ AID staff present for the occasion. **Once again, as Christians we felt so privileged to stand with the Jewish people and witness the joy of prophecy fulfilled.**

*"The nation of Israel is alive" and anyone who was with us in the dining room of the Keshet Yehuda Academy could feel this with all his heart and soul."* Says Daniel Braun.

### **Christian Care**

It was a privilege to represent you there and witness for ourselves the pleasure this outing brought to the group. Gita helped facilitate this special day. She is a lovely lady who herself experienced life in the ghettos as a child, and the pain of seeing her mother die from the hardships she endured. Following the event she told us that every single person had had a wonderful time, saying:

***"The fact that there are people who think about them and give them the opportunity to leave their house, explore the Land and envelop them with so much love, touched them deeply".***



### **The Holocaust Survivor Program is Proving to be One of Connections**

Connecting the younger generation to the older; connecting formerly atheistic Jews to their Torah; connecting elderly immigrants to their Homeland and connecting Jews and Christians in a meaningful way.

**ICEJ AID's Holocaust Survivor General Fund Made This Special Day Possible**

**Outings like this play an important part in the wellbeing of the Survivors and benefit not only those who have been adopted, but other needy Survivors as well. Donations to our General Fund are very important and greatly appreciated.**

**For more information write to [icejaid@icej.org](mailto:icejaid@icej.org)**