



October 30, 8 a.m. Briefing before the work begins. Ty Henderson (BTP Project Manager) is all smiles: the Polish crew is at Tamar Park again!



After a few minutes, the ladies' team (pictured here with BTP Park Manager, Allan) is ready to face this year's challenges. They need to... weed the palm grove! Thorny plants cut hands and legs but we deal with them quickly.



The men are laying out the concrete paths by the buildings...



...finish the interior of the synagogue...



... repair the roof of the former British building



Another ladies' team paint boards...



... wash the windows in kitchen and dining room...



... watching the kids...



...after weeding the palm grove and eating a recuperative meal, they move on to painting the outside walls (supported by Steve from Indiana). It's going to be beautiful!



In the evening, after supper, we listen to Ty's story about Tamar Park's mission and about Rabbi Simcha Permuter, who established this place



# ISRAEL - Oct-Nov, 2019 POLISH WORK RETREAT & TOUR



October 31, 7 a.m. To breakfast at the crack of dawn...



The kitchen is managed by Synthia from the USA. Malgosia: I've always dreamt of being a kitchenmaid...



You can meet interesting people at Tamar Park. Michael from Singapore is telling us about his optimism. He is positive that everything is possible thanks to faith in the one God.



Laying out the paths near the houses is quite advanced already. The concrete mixer is coming tomorrow. Time to get the concrete forms ready.



Tamar Park grows olives. The girls pick them and prepare for marinating.



Trees are a good place to hide from heat and... hard work. But removing stubborn stains from slats is not easy or pleasant.



Meanwhile, the painter team is working tirelessly... apparently, the building hasn't been painted for 40 years.



Tamar Park is a place pointing to Israel's ancient history. Although led by a Christian foundation, it's not aimed at converting Jews – this is the condition of its existence. After supper we listened to Allan, the other – next to Ty – man of action around here.

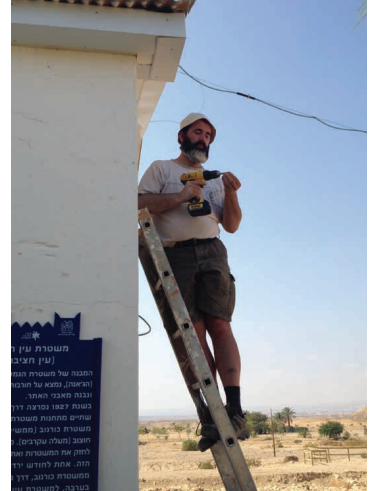


# ISRAEL - Oct-Nov, 2019 POLISH WORK RETREAT & TOUR



November 1, 5 a.m. In the dark, a few of us climb a nearby Prayer Mountain to welcome a desert sunrise with a prayer to God.

Today is the third (and last) day of our stay at Tamar Park. We are rushing to finish the work we started. We still need to paint hard-to-reach spots above the agave and among climbing plants.



Almost the last paintbrush strokes...

The soffits at the British station need a few final touches.



Concreting the desert is an interesting sight. Thanks to the hard surfaces, though, people won't wade in mud during the rainy season. The concrete mixer comes before 11. First the concrete is poured into the forms, and the rest has to be instantly wheelbarrowed as needed. Heat, sweat... and smiles.



We managed to finish everything before sunset. Tonight, on Friday evening, the Sabbath begins – we welcome it together with other Tamar Park guests: the sound of shofar, lighting candles, songs, wine and bread. Then we eat our tasteful supper and ice cream for dessert.

We talk and discuss Biblical topics until late in the night. Tomorrow we are leaving Tamar and heading to Jerusalem.



# ISRAEL - Oct-Nov, 2019 POLISH WORK RETREAT & TOUR



A five-car caravan is moving quickly towards Ma'ale Adumim – uphill, which reminds us that one “ascends” to Jerusalem.



A Sabbath service at the Heftsiba congregation. The men put on prayer shawls and sit separately. Warm looks of our Israeli brethren and friends, Hebrew songs full of Sephardic energy, the parashah read from an old Torah scroll – all that makes the heart beat faster. Here we feel that there is neither Jew nor Greek...



Afterwards, we go to the nearby Good Samaritan Museum (mid-way between Jericho and Jerusalem) where tradition places the inn from Jesus' story. We picnic and then look at beautiful old mosaics. A nearby hill provides a breathtaking view of Judea.



Vered was unable to come to the service but joined us in the afternoon to spend a few moments together in Jerusalem. An evening stroll through the labyrinth of old, narrow streets, pausing for a quiet prayer at the Western Wall of the Temple... we recognize a lot of spots already, but there is still a lot to discover.