Tale på konferanse i Jerusalem 15. okt. 2018

Shalom! Bokr tov. Good morning. I’m Grethe. My surname Tangen Olsen.

I’m from the western part of Norway, born and reist on an island in the north sea, the island most westword where there live people. There they believe in God of Israel, talking about Israel and praying for her. This was the background in my family.

So- around the time of glasnost and perestroika I was involved in helping Jewish people from former Sovjet-Union to Israel. Together with bus-drivers we had 17 vehichle in several countries, most in Russia and Ukraina, serving Jewish Agency, Jewish communities and Messianic Congregations – for the purpose of Aliyah.

After 5 years the Leader of Jewish Agency in Moscow asked me to do a job for Olim in Israel, and we ended up in the Negev. There is space for expansjon.

We started building houses in Ashalim for Olim coming from Ukraine, but the first families came from France and settled there.

After few years the municipality asked us to help building up the another hill, Beer Milka at the border of Sinai, Egypt, close to Kadesh Barnea. In both places, and to farmers around in the area, we helped with infrastructure, small houses, financial help to people who owed ground, but couldn’t afford to build. And so forth…

These years we also have had a continuing Aliyah-work in Ukraine by sponsoring the native Aliah-organisation PeopleWhoCare.

How might the future be?

The leadership of Ramat HaNegev is thankful for our support. This we understand also by seeing Exodus Norths name on the wall of the kindergarden, at the entrance of the svimmingpool, and few months ago a nice little park in Ashalim got the name Exodus Nord.

Yesterday night I was the Mayors guest when he opened the first meeting in the New Year with his Board and the leaders of the different departments in the county. He wanted to say thanks to us.

Why this? Why is the Mayor taking us around in the area, telling us where and what they expect to build, and even ask me to meet with the anti-terror-group for that region. It seams to me - I’m to know.

Yes, in time to come, even with tuf challenges, we will stay together with the people of this Land. Many are knocking at the door of Israel, to come and have a hiding-place. This theme was talked about in the Negev 2 ½ years ago when we arranged a conference similar to this.

What we learned from one of the lecturers, doctor Georgina Perdomo, was that our DNA can discover our origin. My brothers sample confirmed that I’m a desendant of Sephardic Jews.

My ancestors came from Ireland via Scotland, or directly from Holland, maybe involved in trade, or - landed on our island, trying to escape from the inquisition in Spain/Portugal. From Internet we can read that a ship from the Iberian peninsula went down (shipreacked) in the ocean near my island in year 1515. How many persons saved their lives, we don’t know.

During the period of trade between the Netherlands and the westcoast of Norway from that time, timber was shipped from cold Norway to Amsterdam in order to build the harbours, and they needed longlasting, hard, tight timber. This trade brought Sephardic Jews to our region.

The history tells that my island in the north sea was populated around year 1.500.

So- how can all these puzzles come into a picture? Time to come will give an answer.

Israel/Efraim was taken into captivity to Assyria around year 722 B. C. and further on together with Jewish people spread all over the world. The gospel of the true God was and is preaced to the nations. What matters – I think- is not only to find people with genes from the 12 tribes, but also search for people who have got the Spirit of God implanted in their own spirit. For there might come a time when many will be persecuted.

Concerning the region of Negev, I know it’s written in Prof. Obadia vers 20 that Sephardic Jews will settle there.

The Kingdom of Juda under King David reached in the south to the big crater/martesh at Mispe Ramon. The Negev highland from Beer Sheva to the Ramon crater lifts up to 1037 m. above sealevel. There were the place David led his flock to green pastures, according to my friend in Sde Bokr who went to Ben Gurion university in Beer Sheva, learning about the desert, and is now a tourguide there. Many ruins from the time of David has been excavated around in the Negev. This land has been waited 2.000 years for people to settle.

Exodus North has a guesthouse in Ashalim for visitors who want to get known to the area.

The Bible talks about that region.

From Salme 107, 35 we read: “He turned the wilderness into water and dry ground into watersprings.

Prophet Jesaia: “I will open rivers on the bare hights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will set the cypress in the desert, the plane tree and the pine together.

Prophet Jesaia: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like a rose”.

Thank you.