

Dear Naveh,

Thank you very much for the letter you wrote together with your mother, in which you told me about your life before and after 7 October 2023, that terrible day when so many things changed for you and your family.

Your words touched me deeply. I wish to send my condolences and sympathy to you and your family. Spiritually I stand with you at the 'table of hope' that you have set up in your home and I pray that God will grant eternal rest to your grandfather, Avshal, and to your aunt, your uncle and his nurse. I pray with you especially for your father, Tal, and I sincerely hope that you will soon be able to embrace him again. I also pray for you and your little sister, Yahel, as well as for your cousin, that you will soon be able to laugh and play peacefully again after all these horrible experiences. We can turn to the Lord, the good Shepherd of his people, and in the words of Psalm 23, say with hope and confidence: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me".

Finally, I would like to tell you how much I enjoyed reading the last lines of your letter, in which you write that you often think of the children in Gaza and wish for an end of the war for them too. Yes, you are right when you say that it would be better to play football together instead of shooting at each other. You are still young, but your words are wise. I wish that the great and powerful of this world would think like you!

May the Lord bless and keep you and your family and make his face shine upon you.

With kind regards,

Francis