

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Desmond Tutu once said "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness"

I think Yocheved Lifshitz's gesture of peace to her captor is one such example of light.

"When 85-year-old Israeli Yocheved Lifshitz was released from Hamas's underground cells, she was filmed gripping the hand of a hooded fighter who had probably been part of her prison guard while saying "shalom", the Hebrew word for peace. It was a startling moment of humanity in a frighteningly divided world...in these bleak times, Ms Lifshitz offers an important lesson: that a small gesture of kindness towards a person who represents your enemy can stop time, can show in an instant that we are all human, as opposed to an impulse for revenge that reinscribes the past, setting off an endless chain of attack and reprisal."

- From the Guardian Editorial, Tuesday 24th October 2023

Her gesture is a remarkable act for peace. Along with Palestinian groups such as the [Gaza Sunbirds](#) and the [Holy Land Trust](#), who have been working for years, under the most difficult of circumstances, in non-violent ways for the change that bring peace, they represent the light that speaks of hope, even in the darkest situations. Their inspiring stories need to be shared.

We can support their efforts, by praying for them, by learning and telling their stories, and supporting them practically when we have the opportunity. We can also be inspired by them to bring the peace that is needed to our communities.