

ICASSI 1971, Jerusalem, Kfar Giladi, and Tel Aviv, Israel

10th Anniversary of the Alfred Adler Institute of Tel Aviv.

Looking back, this fifth International Summer School seemed very special and most memorable, perhaps because it turned out to be the last that Dr Dreikurs was to conduct. In spite of his illness, he gave some of his most dynamic lectures and demonstrations and taught with fervour and brilliance, sharpening diagnostic techniques and picking up “goldmines”. Students and instructors lingered together, savouring each moment, and Mrs Dreikurs was always at his side.

It was at this Summer School that Dr Raymond Corsini introduced his format for Individual Education, that Dr Nira Kfir presented her formulation of the Number One Priority, and that Adeline Starr gave a moving demonstration of psychodrama. Participants were impressed with the expertise of Israeli staff members who had been previously trained by Dr Dreikurs. Many Israelis came to classes, some from neighbouring Kibbutzim. During a counselling session, a Kibbutz parent, with family difficulties very similar to North American problems, showed the commonality of concerns for all parents, regardless of country or culture.

But the Summer School in Israel was significant in more ways than brimful days of continuous study and “Gemeinschaftsgefühl”. It was many experiences: the first week in Jerusalem, steeped in antiquity, with tours of the ancient Walled City – the Western Wall, the Holy Places, the Via Dolorosa, the Market Places; trips to Jericho, Massada, Qanrum (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found), the Dead Sea (for a swim), Bethlehem; and the Mayor of Jerusalem’s reception, with overflowing baskets of fruit, trays of hors d’oeuvres, and goblets of wine. The second week was held in a Kibbutz at Kfar Giladi overlooking the Golan Heights, north of Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee.

The return journey down the Mediterranean coast, visiting the caves of Rosh Hanikra, Akko, Haifa, Mt Carmel, and Caesarea, ended in Tel Aviv. Some participants spent the last four free days experiencing this city and old Jaffa and their environs with Dr and Mrs Dreikurs and many friends. Others returned to Jerusalem or visited Elat on the Red Sea.

The farewell party and reception was held in an open garden-like setting, celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Alfred Adler Institute of Tel Aviv, and paying heartfelt tribute to Dr Dreikurs. The Canadian group of 26, grateful for this very moving ICASSI Experience, gave a small donation toward Arab teacher training (which Achi Yotam later began in Jerusalem). Dr and Mrs Dreikurs planned to remain in Israel to work for a period of time in spite of his grave illness. The Israeli group, chaired by Achi Yotam, had worked untiringly for countless months to bring this stimulating ICASSI’71 to fruition.