

May 24, 2004

Dear Mr. Sittsamer,

My name is Ashley Brown, and I am a senior at Redbank Valley High School. My class studied the Holocaust for a short period of time before we attended the presentation, but your story touched me more than anything else I had previously read or seen. I can't imagine how hard it must have been to go through the torture that you did only to find that all of your family was gone. It must have been awful. I can only imagine what great strength it must have taken to go on building a new life for yourself when you had to do it alone. I can't even begin to fathom what my life would be like without my family. Did you ever feel guilty that you survived? Did you ever ask God, "Why me? Why was I chosen to live and the rest of my family chosen to die?" If you had known that the rest of your family had died, would you have still struggled to survive, or would you have just given in? Do you have any regrets?

I was very impressed with the fact that you were able to go back to Poland after all was said and done. That must have taken a great deal of courage. I'm not sure that I would have been able to do the same. I would think that the memories would just be too overwhelming. I suppose that it's different for me though because I'm just imagining. You had to face the reality of the situation. Perhaps the memories wouldn't have been too overwhelming for you because they're basically all you had left. I know it doesn't sound like much, but at least you do have some good memories from your childhood.

I very much appreciated that you had the strength and courage to be able to tell me your story. I was very touched. I know it mustn't be that easy for you to relive the experience over and over again, but I also know it's necessary in order to prevent the same thing from happening again. I think you're an amazing person, and I hope that the rest of your life is filled with happiness. Best of luck to you & your family. If you'd like to write my address is 1069 S Reidsburg Rd, New Bethlehem, PA 16242.

Sincerely, Ashley Brown