



Newsletter 1/2016

Shalom dear friends

More than once I have heard our resident Eli say: "Where have 80 years gone?" ☺ The impression we get here at the Home is that as we grow older, the years somehow become shorter...

It's hard to believe, but half a year has gone by since our last newsletter, and 40 years have passed since the Ebenezer Home first opened its doors! On April 14<sup>th</sup> we celebrated this special event with 350 guests in attendance, some of whom came from abroad especially for the occasion.

The purpose of the event was to give God the glory for His faithfulness, and we are glad that the many comments we received testify that the purpose was achieved!

The 40 day/year period immediately makes us think of the wilderness and its spiritual connotation. In all the connotations it speaks of a passing period of time, after which a new period begins with its own blessings and challenges!

And so, with memories engraved in our hearts, we look forward in faith remembering God's faithfulness: "During the forty years

that I led you through the wilderness, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet." (Deuteronomy 29:5) Even though we don't know what the future holds, we know that God holds the future!

Having this in our heart, we decided to publish a book for the occasion of the anniversary, recording the history of the Home and including pictures and testimonies of some of the residents. The book is titled "Remember What God Has Done: the Ebenezer Home – the First 40 Years". The book (for now in English only) can be purchased through our new website, [ebenezer.co.il](http://ebenezer.co.il), or by contacting our office.



*With Esther Meyer, who spoke on behalf of the residents at the event*

We want to use this opportunity to thank God from the depths of our hearts for the faithful and dedicated service of **Dr. Brian (Baruch) Pokroy**, the beloved physician. Brian has been our doctor for those first 40 years and will be retiring at the end of June. There are no words that can truly describe who Dr. Pokroy is to us all, both residents and workers – "because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother"!



His place will be filled by **Dr. Faith (Hannah) Goldberg**, to whom the work with the elderly is a clear calling. Several years ago the Lord put a burden for the elderly upon Faith's heart and since then she decided to specialize in geriatric medicine. Two months ago, in perfect timing, she completed her specialization and became available to work at the Home. It's a great comfort for us to know that God in

His mercy has once again supplied capable hands to care for our residents.

On April 13-14 we had the Home's annual Amuta Committee meetings. Among other things, the committee discussed the nursing ward building plans, but the final approval for the construction is yet to be made. Although we have a good estimate of the construction and operational costs, the committee's decision will be made only when it's presented with the final data. In the past several months we have met with various professional advisers, and after they complete their work we'll be able to present the committee with more precise estimates.

In the meantime, as did other homes for the elderly that were built many years ago, we received a letter from the Ministry of Welfare demanding that our building urgently undergo renovations. The required renovations are in accordance with standards that were issued for buildings as old as ours. We had planned to make these changes as part of the building project, but the Ministry of Welfare is conditioning the 2017 license to these renovations. In other words, even if the committee doesn't approve the nursing ward, we still won't be able to escape undergoing renovations in order to renew the license for the Home.

In relating to 40 years, I personally feel, that like the children of Israel, we too stand on the shores of the raging Jordan River about to fulfill the vision of entering the Promised Land. I sense that in a certain way God is expecting us to step out in faith and dip our feet into the raging waters so that we can cross the 'Jordan' (Joshua 3:9-17).

Please pray for wisdom and clear guidance from the Lord of all the earth.



*Presenting Dr. Pokroy with a farewell gift at the 40<sup>th</sup> event*

The Lord has blessed us with wonderful volunteers, some of them being part of a group volunteering for a few days and others who come for a period of up to 2 years. Here is the testimony of one of our long term volunteers:



Shalom in the name of Yeshua haMashiach.  
 My name is Emma and I am a volunteer at the Ebenezer Home. I was born to a Christian family in the Netherlands in 1959. I studied to be a nurse and worked in a home for the elderly with dementia for five years. I got married and the Lord blessed us with four wonderful daughters. Sadly, after 12 years of marriage we separated and I was left to raise the girls by myself. But God is good, He used this difficult situation to draw me closer to Himself. During those difficult years I learned to trust Him and lean on Him when things were hard. My daughters grew up and are beautiful women, they live their independent lives now and are no longer dependent on me.



On a trip with our long term volunteers

When I was 18 years old I fell in love with Israel. One day a Messianic Jewish woman came to our Bible study group and told us about her people and her Messiah. Her testimony deeply touched me and the desire was born in my heart to serve these people. For many years I had no opportunity of serving the Jewish people and I actually didn't expect it to ever happen. But our Lord is an awesome God! He called me and opened all the doors for me to come and serve Him and His people in this Land!

Now I am in Haifa working at the Ebenezer Home and living in the volunteer apartment with other women who have come to serve the Lord and the Home. When I came here, in July of 2015, it was very hot and the air conditioning at Ebenezer wasn't working. This was a 'fire test'. If I had to live in my home country in temperatures and humidity like those that we experience here I would be having at least one migraine headache attack per week. But by the grace of God, since I have been here I haven't had even one! This is a miracle and it has confirmed to me that this was the place God wanted me to be in!

I work on the first floor as a nurse-aid and I love this work. I love taking care of the residents, they are such beautiful people. We work hard and at times it can be strenuous, but it is a privilege to be able to give such good care to these precious people. We take care of their physical needs, but it is also important to care for their spiritual and emotional needs. We share the love of Jesus with them by singing to them, praying with them and telling them of His love and care.

We watch miracles happen. One of our residents was becoming very depressed. It was very hard to encourage her and most of the time she was very sad. One day she became seriously ill and had to go to hospital, her situation was grave and we feared for her life. We praise the Lord, for she recovered a little and came back to us at Ebenezer. Once she was home her condition improved and her body recovered almost completely. But what has been most beautiful to see is that her depression is gone and she is now full of spiritual and mental strength, feeling happy in spite of 'old age aches and pains'! We are all praising the Lord! The spirit of the Lord is truly present in this home and that is why it is so good to work here.

To God be the glory!



Some of the volunteering groups



In the Love of Christ,  
 Johnny and Shoshana Khoury

"...and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, hitherto hath the LORD helped us" "עד-הנה עזרנו ה' ויאמר, אבן העזר, אבן העזר" (1 Sam 7, 12, 13)