

Shalom dear friends

This summer it will be 16 years since I started working at the Ebenezer Home (11 years in the position of manager). Over the years I have witnessed quite a few changes in the Home – some of them painful and frustrating and some of them 'natural' and expected. One of the painful and unnecessary things we have had to deal with is the termination of the good and long lasting relationship with the Finnish organization (FELM) that supported the Home faithfully since it was established. Our relationship with FELM was terminated after we realized that the organization holds permissive views regarding single sex relationships, and welcomes such couples into Christian service. Our sincere prayer is that the Lord restore them to himself and "renew our days as of old" (Lamentations 5:21).

Another change is in the residents 'profile'. I remember how in the first years of my work in the Home, we used to plan the annual trip to places quite far afield such as the Safari in Ramat Gan. Most residents wanted to come and the bus was full! This year we decided to take our residents to the Marzipan Museum in Kfar Tavor (yes, there is such a place!) We learnt new things about the Marzipan industry and about the almonds' health qualities, which can lengthen years. It's just a pity they don't grow new teeth! In the original plan 20 out of 27 residents were supposed to go on the trip, but in the end only 14 residents participated! There is no doubt that as the years go by the average resident in the Home is older and frailer.

In addition to this, in the last months more and more people approach us with the request to receive nursing care, but unfortunately our license from the Ministry of Welfare doesn't permit us to receive them. We truly hope that the plans for the building of a nursing ward under the supervision of the Ministry of Health will mature, so that we can fulfil the vocation for which we have been called.

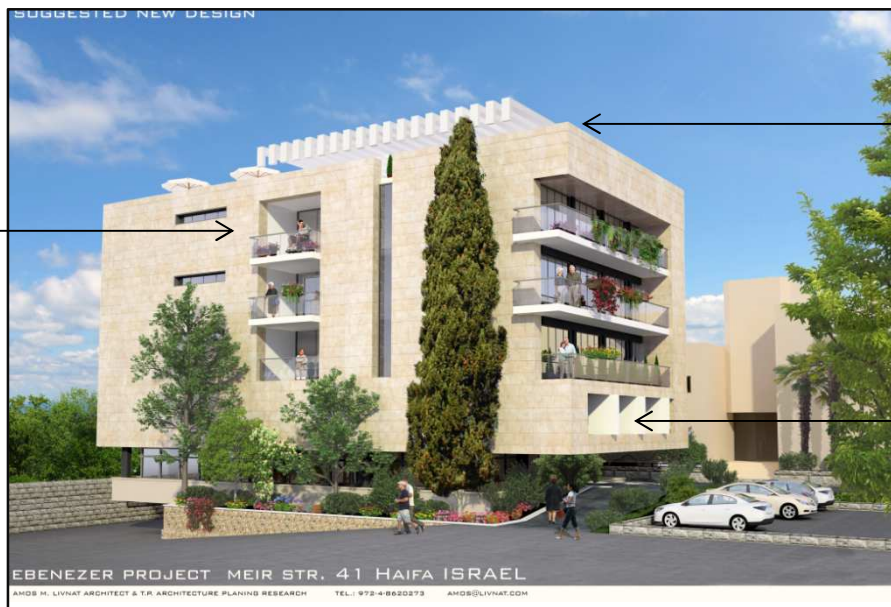
During the past six months the architect, who is a professional in the area of planning and designing of Senior Citizens' Homes, worked on an initial model of the building design. The supposed model of the upgraded building was presented in a meeting with the preservation department of the Haifa Municipality (in the picture below). The objective was to make sure that the building design would integrate in the German Colony. One of the demands, for example, is to coat the building with stone. We thank the Lord for a fruitful meeting that was held in a positive spirit. At the moment, the plans are being examined by the legal department of the Haifa Municipality and we hope that they will see our need and approve our request.



Residents' trip to the Marzipan Museum - Kfar Tavor



**Additional floor
(Examining the
option of adding
two floors)**



**The roof will
be an area for
the residents'
use**

**Nursing floor
with improved
protection**



Martina Halevy

We are happy that from the beginning of the year 2 new residents joined our Home: Bep Philips (David, our maintenance manager's mother) and Naomi Ateek who has been involved with the Home for many years. As for now we have 5 male residents and 23 female residents!

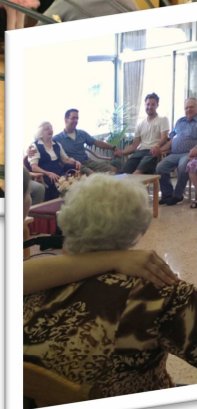
But we also sadly parted from our dear sister, Martina Halevy (92), after many years of being in nursing care. Martina was very much loved by us all. She loved the Lord and His word, and when her sight faded, she was always happy to hear the word being read to her and to listen to songs of praise. About a week before she passed away she told me that she is longing to be with the Lord. I told her that only the Lord could grant her this request, in His time. I prayed with her that the Lord would hear her request, spare her suffering and take her home soon. And the Lord did hear! She returned her soul to its maker while round her bed volunteers were praying and singing praise songs. There is no doubt that she is now comforted with the Lord and happy to meet her husband, Avraham, who was also a resident in the Home, and came to faith in Christ on his death bed. (She prayed for him for many years).



**Purim treats
for the residents**



Volunteers' trip to the Negev



Fellowship with the 'Lech Lecha' group

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the heating system needs 'surgical' treatment. We were supposed to start taking care of the system in the fall but for technical reasons the matter was postponed and it was decided to start the procedure after the winter months so as not to shut down the heating system when most needed. Looking back, the delay turned out for good because in the meantime we were able to examine other alternatives to upgrade the system. Lord willing, we will begin the renovations in the coming weeks. The maintenance team would very much value your prayers for the Lord's help and guidance as they work.



Part of the heating system in need of renovation

In addition, in the last newsletter we asked for special prayer for the husbands of two of our workers. Sadly, Benjamin, who had a terminal sickness passed away a few weeks ago, but we thank the Lord for the opportunity we had to pray with him a short while before he lost consciousness. God knows the hearts. Please pray for Rauda, his widow, and for their 3 daughters, (the youngest is about 14). We were very thankful to see Joseph's quick and good recovery from severe injury after the car accident he had. We continue to pray for the salvation of his soul.

Thank you for your prayers and we would be very grateful if you remembered us especially during the summer months. As in previous years, it is a challenge to keep the work routine going as workers ask for holiday time with their families.

**In the Love of Christ,
Johnny and Shoshana Khoury.**