



Shalom dear friends!

*The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous run into it, and are safe. (Prov. 18:10)*

As we continue to serve the Lord at the Ebenezer Home with all its' challenges and joys, we see more and more how true and relevant this Scripture verse is. Daily we need to run to the Lord to find shelter, strength and peace in His presence.

In recent months two of our staff have been diagnosed with cancer: Niveen, a kitchen worker, had a complicated head surgery and has been undergoing rigorous treatment for the past 6 months; Regina, our social worker, who has been with us for 21 years, started treatment a month and a half ago. Our doctor fell off her bike and broke her shoulder 4 weeks ago, and several other staff have been suffering from injuries as well and must work limited hours. All this has come at a time when we are short on volunteers!

Several of our residents are also suffering from difficult ailments. We daily bring these dear ones in prayer before the throne of grace and ask that you join us in intercession! And the Lord is faithful in answering our cries. Two of our residents have improved dramatically: A. had suffered a stroke and has a problem with her eyesight. Several months ago she started seeing much better, recognizing people and being able to talk and eat by herself. E. has been static as a nursing case for over a year and a half. We thank the Lord that during the last month she became more articulate with her voice and is now able to hold a spoon and eat!



Maggie on residents' outing

In February the Home received two new residents – Juan from Tel Aviv and Maggie from Haifa. Maggie's room is across the corridor from her friend of many years, Naomi! Both have easily integrated in our community and are happy. Both love to work in our activity room – Juan on his drawings and Maggie on rug weaving. Our website features posts on both Maggie and Juan in "Our Heartbeat" section as well as posts and pictures about other events and news.



Juan drawing in the activity room



Our annual residents' trip on July 6th was to the Utopia orchid park. Even though there are many different flowers and plants in the park, the highlight of it is 19,000 beautiful orchids that grow on tree branches, among stones and in vases all over the park. The residents had a short lecture on caring for orchids and went round the park enjoying its' beauty. We ended our time



there with an excellent lunch and a time of fellowship with each other. Everyone slept well after being in the fresh air! Read the full post about our trip in "Our Heartbeat" section of the website, with many pictures.

A couple of months ago we had 2 surprise visits from the Ministry of Welfare, one of them was in the evening and was held in all the nursing homes in the country due to severe abuse that was exposed in one of the homes in Haifa. In their report they underlined that the Home is very clean and welcoming, the atmosphere is calm and the residents look neatly and cleanly dressed and well cared for. The unbelieving daughter of one of our residents happened to be visiting her mother at that time. She spoke to the inspectors and said that she was very pleased with the home and that Ebenezer would be the only place she would agree to live in herself. Later on the sister of another

resident came to visit from abroad and told us that she is very happy with the way her sister is treated at Ebenezer. This kind of feedback is very encouraging to us!

Until we have a license to operate a nursing ward, technically we are only allowed to have 10% of our residents needing nursing care. For each resident that becomes a nursing case we must apply to an appeal committee for permission to continue caring for them in the Home. At present there are 30 residents in the Home with 4 of them requiring nursing care.

In our last appeal the committee agreed to approve an additional nursing case, emphasizing in their report that their approval was given because of the high quality of care and the unique atmosphere in the Home. But they did add that because we are now exceeding the 10% allowed for nursing cases, they will be inspecting more frequently and imposing more requirements. This confirms all the more our need for a nursing ward!



Our Nursing Ward project drawings have been approved and signed by the Municipality's Department of Historic Preservation. At the end of June we had a meeting with the Chief Architect of Haifa who was satisfied with the drawings, and now we need to meet with the Haifa mayor by the end of July for his approval. We call on the Lord for wisdom at every step. Our Architect Mr. Amos Livnat and his team have done all that can be

done to design the "new look" to fit with the neighborhood and to keep it as modest and user friendly as possible.

How we wish that things would move faster and we were already smelling fresh concrete being poured! The need to start building the nursing ward in the near future is very great. We ask that you pray for God to give us wisdom and for all the local authorities to give the necessary approvals soon. Please speak and write to your friends, believers in the Messiah Yeshua and all who love Israel about our residents and the urgent need for a nursing ward at Ebenezer. We know that our LORD will provide, and with HIS help it can be done. Any help is very much appreciated and we are grateful for every donation! Right now we have organizations in the US, Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland which are helping us to collect donations and provide you with a receipt for tax refund in case you reside in one of those countries. *You are welcome to visit our website for detailed information. We update "donations received" section on a weekly basis.*

Besides pursuing the building aspect of the nursing ward, we are also working on administration and nursing care for the future residents of the ward. We've already started regular training for our medical staff in this regard.



Bella, our outgoing volunteer

Since the beginning of the year we have said goodbye to 3 wonderful volunteers. Marie from Norway, Emmy from the Netherlands and Bella from Germany. Bella, the youngest, chose to volunteer at Ebenezer before starting college in the fall. We are grateful to God for the great help she was. Even when off duty she was always busy helping others with unlimited patience and unlimited love for all. Always with a friendly smile on her face, always ready to serve and go the extra mile! One of the things she said about the Home is that it is a place to grow. It always encourages us to know that those who come to give also receive!

We thank all of you for your faithful support of the Home – for travelling with us in prayer and for sending your gifts of love to support our vision and our goals in working with the elderly believers in Israel and in providing a worthy standard of living and spiritual environment for those who themselves served the Lord for many years. Please keep us in your prayers during this trying period and in dealing with so many important issues. Pray for strength and God's provision for the summer months with the heavy heat and several staff members going on vacations during this period. We send all of you our love and pray that the Lord will bless you, keep you and watch over you!

Johnny and Shoshana Khoury.