

Finger on the Pulse

by Dr. Faith Goldberg, Ebenezer Medical Doctor



Friend of Ebenezer and of Israel,

Ulrich comes twice a year from Germany to Israel, for the Ebenezer charity board meetings. He usually arrives a couple of days early, so that he can spend time with the residents, play the piano for them and be available to encourage the staff. He was elected onto the International board in 1986, and even before this time was an active friend and supporter of the home.

He is a quiet and unassuming man. As I talk to him in my office, I am drawn into his deep and active concern not only for Ebenezer Home but for the Jewish people and Israel.



Ulrich performing for the residents

Ulrich came to faith in Yeshua after attending a meeting where Billy Graham spoke, in Stuttgart, Germany. He was fifteen years old. He became more active in the Methodist congregation where he grew up, helping with the children's work. When he finished school, he decided to study theology and become a pastor. He learnt ancient Hebrew and Greek so that he could study the Old and New Testament in their original languages. As he studied the Bible it became more and more clear to Ulrich that Israel was a people uniquely chosen by God and set apart from the other nations for specific purposes.

Ulrich was born in 1948, the close of the second World War, when the full extent of the horror of the holocaust was being revealed. Ulrich's father had served in the German army in France and the Ukraine.

"My generation grew up frustrated by questions that were not answered by the older generation. How could it be that my parents and their parents could have been trapped in the catastrophe of the holocaust? Where was the church during the holocaust?" Ulrich said. "These questions disturbed me."

While Ulrich was pastoring a United congregation in Essen, he met an eighty years-old lady, Mrs Kaufmann. A member of his congregation, she was a strong-natured lady, who had helped to hide Jews during the Holocaust. After the war Mrs Kaufmann felt guilty not only for what Germany as a nation had done to the Jewish people but also for what she felt most Christians in Germany had not done during the Holocaust. She set about organizing monthly seminars in order to educate the congregations regarding Israel and the Bible. In the 50's she started to make visits to Israel and to network with local believers in the land. She then brought friends with her to expose them to what was happening in Israel. In the mid 70's she became one of the founding friends of Ebenezer and set up a promotion circle of friends for the Home – Foerderkreis. This circle of German friends has supported the home by prayer and finances since 1977.

When Mrs Kaufmann retired, she asked Ulrich to take over the Foerderkreis. Ulrich's commitment was decisive.

"It was a decision that changed and formed my life. I feel that after the Holocaust my generation had a lot to repair and I have given myself fully to this. I see myself as a link between the church and the Jewish people, an advocate for Messianic Jews who are not always accepted by the church." Ulrich concluded.

There is so much more I would like to include in this article after talking with Ulrich, (sometimes I hate being restricted by a word count). We would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Ulrich and the members of Foerderkreis – true friends of Ebenezer.

Bread and Fish - Devotional

by Johnny Khoury, Ebenezer Managing Director



The term 'project' has become a magic word - a product that can be valued by time and money, with clear starting and ending points. This is often our attitude towards each other. In contrast to this, a vision stems from a clear calling of God, with a clear starting point but no ending point and no limitations of time and money. This is how God relates to us: He knew us before the foundation of the world, called us by name, and designated us to have eternity ahead of us - bought with the precious price of Christ's blood - a price that cannot be measured. With this understanding in mind, the more we grasp these amazing facts, our life's considerations and priorities will change. We serve a 'God of vision', not a 'God of projects'. At times, the desire to serve God comes with enthusiasm and a willing heart and one responds to the call "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" with a "Here am I. Send me!" In other cases, the reaction may be less enthusiastic (like with Jonah), God simply commands - Arise, go! Then comes the routine, which is usually less thrilling and even burdensome (many of us know this very well). At this point, the willingness to continue and serve Christ according to His calling is because Christ's love compels us (2 Cor. 5:14) - the love of Christ that works in us and through us. This is the driving force that inspires us every day. One of my favorite verses is David's encouragement to Solomon in 1st Chronicles 28: 20 "Be strong and courageous, and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you until all the work for the service of the house of the Lord is finished."

With these words we also encourage our dear residents. The Ebenezer Home is not the end of the 'project' for them, but another stage in God's eternal 'vision' - the work for the service of the house of the Lord!

I take this blessed opportunity to thank you all for continuing to support us in one way or another, allowing us to turn this vision into a daily reality for our residents.

What's New?

by Christie Livingstone, Ebenezer Home Secretary



Antoinette rushed into my office with a sheet of paper in her hand, "Please make me 20 copies! Urgent!" She gave me a copy, saying that it was a poem she had written. At the top of the page she had written "urgent" in her handwriting. Wondering what could be so pressing, I started to read it immediately.

Antoinette has many talents. She started writing after she moved into the Home, at the suggestion of a friend who also collected her writings of several years and published them as a book. This poem is the first piece she has written in Hebrew and not in French. Antoinette is a very spontaneous person and likes to share her inspiration. Through her poem we have an insight into Antoinette's heart, she has expressed God's heart for these times.

She shared copies of the poem immediately with residents and staff. The poem touched our social worker so much that she talked about it at the weekly musical meeting. "How can we help God?" asked one of the residents, and everyone had an idea. God does many things through people. When we obey God and allow Him to work through us, He does great things. We can show His love, and help especially those who cannot help themselves. That was the general consensus of the discussion. The atmosphere created by this sharing was so warm and blessed that some were reluctant to go back to their rooms when the meeting was over. "The time passed so fast! Why can't we continue? I want to stay here!" said Rachel.

*"Urgent!! I can't do it alone! I need your help!"
"Who are you?"
"I am the Lord, and I need your help! Urgent!
I can't do it alone!"
"You are God, the Maker of heaven and earth,
and you need my help?"
"Yes! I stand at the door and knock.
Will you open? You live so that you can help Me!
The harvest is plenty, but the workers are few!
Urgent! I need your help!"*