

Finger on the Pulse

by Dr. Faith Goldberg, Ebenezer Medical Doctor



Haifa is a hilly place, as anyone who rides a bike here knows! The first time I rode up Freud, a steep ascent from the shores of the Mediterranean to the Carmel mountain, my calf knotted into a spasm a third of the way up the hill, I panted and dripped sweat the next couple of hundred meters and before I reached the top, I got off my bike and walked the rest of the way.

As the doctor of Ebenezer Home for the Elderly, I daily witness the uphill struggle of the residents with chronic health problems, loneliness, loss of loved ones... the range of peaks to be climbed at the end of life is not for the faint hearted. We need the example of those who have trodden the path ahead of us, the encouragement of those who walk beside us and we have a responsibility for those who walk behind us.

As a charity, Ebenezer Home faces many challenges. In the next year or so, we plan to build an additional floor to the home and to totally renovate the first floor, which will be dedicated to a 14- bed ward to look after residents who need full time nursing care. We are now in the final planning and fund- raising stage. This is a big undertaking for the Home and we covet your prayers. We echo Caleb's request (made at the age of 85!) "Give me this mountain...." Joshua 14:12.

Can you think of a person whose life has inspired and influenced you? Someone who has modeled some of the qualities that we need for our climb: hope, insight, vision and determination?

On my father's desk, perched among the leaning stacks of patient's files, prayer letters, drawings of eye clinics, was a simply framed motto, "Die Climbing". Sometimes, that motto irritated me; why at the age of 67 had he embarked on another wave of intensive ministry in Central Asia defying all the norms of retirement? My mother and I accompanied him on his last trip back to his home country, New Zealand; he was 80 years old and suffering from widespread cancer. He brought with him a portfolio of projects that he was involved in and others that he still hoped to see birthed. Now in my fifties, I begin to appreciate his vision and determination.

Die Climbing

*"Make us Thy mountaineers;
We would not linger on the lower slopes,
Fill us afresh with hope, O God of Hope,
That, undefeated, we may climb the hill,
As seeing Him who is invisible."*

Thank you for walking beside us, for supporting Ebenezer Home with your prayers, time and finances. We need your encouragement and your involvement in the journey. We'd like to connect with you. You are welcome to visit us on our webpage: www.ebenezer.co.il or why not plan a visit to the Home? We will be happy to welcome you and show you around. You can meet the residents and hear more about our work and building project - just let us know ahead of time.



Residents' trip to the Sea of Galilee

Bread and Fish - Devotional

by Johnny Khoury, Ebenezer Managing Director

When people ask me what it is like to work in a nursing home, I usually answer, "Not boring!" There is never a dull moment. At the beginning of June, I celebrated twenty years of working at Ebenezer Nursing Home, fifteen of which I have been serving in the capacity of managing director. Throughout the years, I have gained experience and deepened my knowledge in the area of the process of ageing, but the challenges persist and even intensify! Ebenezer was and remains for me "a school of faith". Financial challenges and endless dealing with people in various circles (residents and their families, employees, volunteers, local authorities, etc) can be challenging. Therefore, I have often prayed in the light of Psalm 121: 1-2 **"A song of ascents. I lift up my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from?"** But, I ask myself, what do the mountains actually symbolise? Then I realise, these mountains actually symbolise the big challenges that we struggle with. Clearly, **"my help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth"**.



But what does this mean in practice? Should I pray for God to give me strength to conquer the mountain? Of course, that is a possibility, but there is another option – to pray for God to level the mountain! Zechariah 4:6-7 - ***So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty. "What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!'"*** God isn't only the maker of heaven and earth, He is also a God who ***"removes the mountains, they know not how."*** (Job 9:5)

The building and renovation project, which includes the preparation of a nursing ward, is a major undertaking for us, which could be compared to Mount Everest... but, we believe that through united prayer God can level this big mountain. Our prayer is that the Lord will be the **"capstone"** of this project.

What's New?

by Christie Livingstone, Ebenezer Home Secretary

We started the New Year by welcoming a new resident, Natalie, who arrived on the first of January. Very cheerful and sociable, she quickly adapted to her new life and felt part of the Ebenezer family.



Between the end of January and end of May 5 of our residents went to be with the Lord, one after another. We are grateful to have known them over all the years they lived in our Home. At the memorial service last week, many residents and staff shared how they were blessed by these sisters, who are now walking the streets of heaven. Before they became very frail, they touched the lives of many people around them. One of our faithful visitors, Carol, spoke about the privilege she had of spending the last 3 weeks with Miassar and seeing how her eyes spoke of the love of God, even when she could no longer speak with words. We continue to pray, as we prepare to welcome another new resident in July. The summer heat is coming, and with it the challenge of keeping the Home comfortable for our precious elderly brothers and sisters. Please pray with us for God's sustenance for the residents in their entire being, and for our team – for wisdom, love, compassion and patience as we continue to serve them.