

Dear Friends,

It has been about 3 months since our last newsletter and we thank the Lord for helping us through the hot and stressful summer!

In the month of May we took our residents on an enjoyable day **trip** to a zoo in Kiryat Motzkin. The zoo is situated in a large flat park which made the walking and pushing of wheelchairs very convenient. We ended our trip with a nice meal in a restaurant also situated in the same park.



We thank the Lord for good progress in the **building of the Sheltered Areas**. The shell of the building has been completed and gradually we can see the project coming to an end. During the building we faced challenges such as opening new windows in some rooms and the need to change rotten pipes. One of the big challenges of the project was the need to make changes in the kitchen which included breaking a partition wall and opening a new window as you can see in the photo (left).



The kitchen is a central part of the Home so we thank the Lord for the neighboring Beit-Eliahu congregation that enabled us to use their kitchen for two weeks until the changes were completed and we could go back to normal! We hope that most of the work will be finished in the coming weeks and we believe that God by His grace will also provide for all the building expenses.

Another challenge was in the area of **manpower**. In addition to the pressure with the building project, many of the workers took their annual summer vacation so they could spend time with their children. The volunteers helped greatly but because we had relatively few volunteers we also needed to employ extra workers temporarily.

We ask special prayer for Regina, our social worker, who had a wound removed from her skin which was diagnosed as melanoma. We thank the Lord from the depths of our hearts that up until now the results haven't shown any sign of secondaries. Regina herself testifies to having the peace of God and she thanks Him for his grace. Please pray for her full recovery.

Testimonies: During the month of July two of our residents went to be with the Lord. Dee passed away unexpectedly and on the other hand Sami passed away at a ripe old age.

Our comfort is that they are both now in the blessed presence of our Lord! Two people, from very different backgrounds, who both experienced the Lord's grace in their lives. We decided to enclose their testimonies and share the Lord's work in their lives with you all:



Sami Herscu was born in 1915 to a Jewish family in Romania. His father was killed in the First World War when Sami was 4 years old. His mother who couldn't provide alone for her 4 children decided to send Sami, by train, on his own with only a small suitcase, to another town to learn a trade. Sami who was only 9 at the time suffered from great loneliness and cried a lot. The owner of the place where he stayed decided to send Sami to Bucharest. Because Sami had no address to go to and didn't know how to ask for help he lived in the streets and worked in odd jobs eating from the food thrown away in the market place. Later on Sami would tell his story and relate that even though he was alone he knew someone up above was watching him and cared for him. And sure enough, one day a friend of his older brother found Sami and took him back home. This same friend, together with Sami's brother, used to attend Richard Wurmbrand's gospel meetings and they both came to saving faith in the Messiah Yeshua. At some stage they took Sami

along with them and he too was saved at the age of 17! When Sami shared his faith with his mother she disowned him.

Sami married at the age of 27. His wife who was 18 was from an ultra-orthodox Jewish home and she too came to faith at Richard Wurmbrand's meetings and was disowned by her family.

During the Second World War Sami was sent to a labor camp but he managed to escape. During the whole period of the war both Sami and his wife had to hide from the Germans and informers.

After the war Romania became communist and Sami who was a good tradesman and had 'hands of gold' managed to provide for his wife and six children in relative providence. Sami had a shop for spare parts. He did not forget his years of want however, and was generous especially to towards the needy. The communist government did not like to see Sami do well and tried many different ways of harming his business. After many unsuccessful attempts Sami was sent to prison for 3 years for handling foreign currency. Twice Sami and his family tried to escape communist Romania but were caught. The third time they tried, God opened the door for them and miraculously they managed to cross the border to Hungary, then to Rome and at last to Israel arriving in 1961.

In Israel Sami worked as a confectioner in Nazareth Ilit and later on in Tel Aviv. He was forced to change his working place more than once for when religious Jews found out he was a Messianic Jew and believed in Jesus he would be fired. In those days the believers in the Land were few and many were Romanian Jews. They used to gather together in home groups and also in Sami's home in Nazareth Ilit. Finally Sami and his wife moved to Haifa and lived in Ebenezer's sheltered housing. They belonged to the Beit-Eliahu congregation. A few months after Sami and his wife moved into the home his wife passed away. Sami spent a fifth of his life in the Ebenezer Home (almost 20 years) and he passed away at the ripe old age of 96.



Dee (Sarah) Belden was born to secular Jewish parents in the USA in 1938. At home she did not learn about God, but they celebrated the main Jewish holidays. Dee grew up with abusive parents, suffering much pain and rejection.

In order to escape her dysfunctional family Dee married at a very young age, but her husband died unexpectedly and she was left pregnant while still a teenager. In her distress she turned to drugs and prostitution, leaving her son to be cared for by her mother.

A Christian woman and her family took Dee into their home to help her get off the streets and off drugs. After a year with them Dee started to attend Bible studies and Church services and she eventually received Jesus as her personal Savior and was baptized.

Dee was reunited with her son. With the help of friends she studied, graduated as a Medical Secretary and got a good job. She remarried despite warnings not to do so. Her second husband claimed to be a Christian, but again she suffered abuse and rejection. She attempted suicide several times and needed psychiatric care. After 25 years of abuse they divorced (Dee has a daughter from her second marriage).

Dee came to Israel for the first time on an organized tour with her Church. She fell in love with the Land and decided to immigrate. She lived in Karmiel for twenty years, worked and belonged to a local congregation.

When her health deteriorated after a severe accident, Dee entered the Home in 2000 and lived here for about 11 years.

Please continue to remember us all in your prayers (Residents, workers and volunteers).

In the love of the Lord, Johnny and Shoshana Khoury