

2010-2011 Winter Newsletter

"I know that everything God does will endure forever;
nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it."

(Ecclesiastes 3:14)

Dear Friends of the Ebenezer Home,

Much has happened since our last newsletter and even more is about to happen in the New Year.

The big fire on the Carmel was a reminder to us all that routine is very fragile. The day started as a regular day, and at first, when we heard about the fire we were not so alarmed for these happen from time to time on the Carmel. But as the hours went by and we saw the heavy smoke out of our windows, we knew that this fire was different! We all at Ebenezer Home join with prayers for comfort for the bereaved, healing for the injured and recovery for the Land. Even in this we can see the mercy and grace of the Lord, that the damage was not much worse and that the homes and lives of believers who live in the area were spared!



Picture of the fire (from the internet)

It is a warning about the dangers of indifference, complacency and unpreparedness that we hope and pray our leaders will take to heart, as must we (see about the progress in the Sheltered area project at end of letter.)

Residents

At the moment we have 26 residents. At the end of November we had the joy of receiving a new resident. **Alex** joined the Ebenezer family and was especially happy to reunite with his good old friend John R., with whom he also shared a flat for many years!

During the last couple of months the residents started a weekly prayer meeting for revival in the Home and in the local congregations – a blessed initiative!

We also want to thank the Lord that the Ministry of Health agreed to let one of our residents who needs nursing care stay in the Home. Our Home is supervised by the Ministry of Welfare and has a

license to have residents who are independent and frail. The Ministry of Health acknowledged the uniqueness of the Home and are satisfied with the care and treatment provided in the Home. Praise be to God!

Staff and volunteers:

Our Physiotherapist, Karin, is just about to go on maternity leave in January.

Until recently we had a few very young volunteers. We thank the Lord for their faithful work and also that we had the privilege of being a blessing to them. During their stay with us, some of them experienced a spiritual awakening and re-dedicated their lives to the Lord!

In the past few months three volunteers from Switzerland, Germany and Norway left us. The volunteer from Germany was forced to cut her time short due to ill health; we pray for her full recovery. One veteran volunteer, Corina from Mexico, rejoined us for another period.

As always, it is important for us to thank all our volunteers for their hard work and cheerfulness!

Feasts and Events:

In October, we had a special visit by a German family with their three children. They sang and played a variety of instruments. The residents enjoyed this talented musical family.



Our contact continues with 'Maon Hod', the home and school for severely handicapped children that is opposite the Home. Some of the children are brought weekly to the garden to enjoy the fresh air and

the sounds of the fountain in the fish pond. Two of our residents are very faithful in spending time with the children.

The Beit Eliahu fellowship continued with their new tradition and brought gifts for each resident at Chanukah. Visitors are always welcomed by the residents, and gifts are always appreciated!

Christmas was celebrated in the Home with a festive meal for the residents and workers, and a few days later with the residents' families and friends of the Home. Sasha and Anja and their daughter came all the way from Karmiel to sing for us. Daniel S. from Kerem-El congregation shared from the word of God and it was a big blessing to all – believers and none believers.

Bazaar:

This year the Bazaar was held at the end of Chanukah and was well attended, (the picture gives you a glimpse of the atmosphere!).

This time we had something new. People were asked to bring old metal items that can be recycled. One of our friends volunteered, together with his son, to sort the items and take them to the recycling yard. This was an extra income from the bazaar.

Although many of us worked very hard and for very long hours preparing for the Bazaar, it is always a blessing to hear from people how much they enjoyed the event, and to meet friends and have good fellowship.

As we prepared a 'thank-you' note, we counted **over 40** people that were involved in preparing the Bazaar –we are truly blessed to have so many friends!



Projects:

- **Central air conditioning:** the repairs are still going on at the time of writing this newsletter. We all pray for rain, but we must admit that the unusual warm weather has been an advantage for we have not been able to turn on the heating...

- **Sheltered area project:** The permit for the project mentioned should be granted any day now. In the meantime our maintenance staff is doing a lot preparatory work, such as clearing the area and moving pipes etc. As mentioned earlier, the fire on the Carmel was a reminder that we should be sober and be prepared. Knowing the fragile situation in the Middle East, we already see the smoke!

At the moment we have around €175,000 – about 50% of the estimated costs for the project. This enables us to at least start with the first part of the project with faith that the Lord will provide the rest. We are aware of the fact that the project is not "a best seller", due the political situation, but as the manager I have the responsibility to do all that I can in order to protect our residents and workers.



Preparing the ground: Removing the maintenance container

Preparation for the Amuta administration:

The various newly appointed committees of the Amuta (non profit organization) have begun meeting. We continue preparing the many administrative details involved, in order to be ready for the transfer of operation of the Home to the Amuta by January 1st.

An update of contact and bank details is attached for your information.

So as you can see, we end 2010 thanking the Lord for what **He** has accomplished and look to **Him** for guidance and protection in the coming New Year that awaits us.

All of us at the Ebenezer Home pray you may know the joy, peace and presence of the Lord in whatever may come,

In our blessed Savior,
Johnny C Khoury
Manager