

Ebenezer Home

Haifa

Annual Report for 2006

” פְּדָה בְּשָׁלוֹם נַפְשִׁי, מִקְרָב-לִי: פִּי-בְרָבִים, הָיוּ עִמָּדַי” (תהילים נה 19)



"He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me" (Ps. 55:18)

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Chairman of the Local Management Committee (LMC)

Gershon Nerel

"Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident"
(Psalm 27:3)

The names "War with Hizbolah" or the "Second War with Lebanon" are the main appellations used by Israelis when they refer to the recent war which took place in the northern part of Israel during the summer of 2006. Like many other places in Haifa, also Ebenezer Home found itself in the eye of the storm. However, even in the middle of fighting and fire, the peace and blessing of Yeshua prevailed in that Messianic Home. Personally, I had an opportunity to witness "normality within war", that is – routine life within war situations, during a short visit I made to the Home on a night and a day in August. That day turned out to be one of the most "active" days, as Haifa was continually bombarded and Katyusha missiles fell literally around the Home. Explosion noises of the falling missiles were heard strongly from the nearby neighbourhood,

both from the German Colony and from Wadi Nisnas, where houses were damaged and lives were lost.

Indeed, all those who were involved in the activities of the Home did their best to function as in normal routine. For example, it was exciting to see that the volunteers insisted to stay and not to return to their homelands. One such person was Pieter from Scotland. By their dedication they gave a unique testimony of love and faithfulness. Also the permanent



The post office, a 10 minutes walk from Ebenezer Home. One of our workers was there but heard the siren and ran to shelter just before the rocket fell. Notice the hole in the ceiling behind the traffic light.

staff had wholeheartedly contributed to stabilise the daily life at the Home, especially during the long hours, day and night, of Katyusha and other missile bombardments by the Hizbollah.

The LMC was pleased that each and every person of the staff which was present did their utmost to facilitate life at the Home. Residents repeatedly said that during that difficult time of trial they could experience the warmth and the assurance of the staff. The staff catered to all their needs and constantly shared words of encouragement and comfort. Johnny even slept over at the Home alongside the residents.

The calm behaviour of the people at the Home during the last war was also a special witness for the surrounding neighbours and for the authorities. Additionally, the relatives of the residents expressed their special thanks and appreciation for the assistance of the staff to their family. All this is indeed another aspect of the continual witness of our lives as believers in Yeshua.

At the same time, however, the LMC was saddened to learn that during the war there were a few residents that deliberately violated the rules of the Home and ignored the authority of the manager and other staff. The manager

justly refused to compromise with the strict regulations of an emergency period. Yet those same residents remained non-cooperative and refused to stay in the bomb shelter as requested by the authorities. However, it should also be said that the majority of the residents fully cooperated with the emergency regulations, and they not only moved to the bomb shelter, but were willing to remain there for long days and nights.

Special thanks go to those faithful brethren and teachers that provided regular spiritual oversight for the Home. For example, the



A photograph taken by Gershon Nerel (Chairman LMC) on a visit to the Home during the war.

teachers were very committed and continued to come every morning and keep up the daily devotions. This was done with special joy and was particularly edifying. Warm thanks also go to the nearby "Beit-Eliahu" Congregation, and particularly to Pastor Samuel Aweida, for the kind hospitality in their own bomb shelter. They hosted some of the residents there, in addition to other friends and neighbours. Their hearty treatment provided a warm

and peaceful atmosphere. Thus, for example, in one case a resident told us: "I could not think of a better place for myself during such a time of emergency and war. Praise the Lord for His sovereignty and protection!"

We are thankful to Yeshua, our Lord and Saviour, for everything. It is our prayer that He will continue to bless the Home and those who support it everywhere.



Happy Birthday Anna Liisa! Anna-Liisa's 81st birthday celebrated in the basement. Johnny, the manager, is giving her flowers while the nurse is giving out lunch.

MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS HELD IN 2006

The International Board

| Member | Deputy |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Leiv Roald Thu (Chairman) | Torgeir Flateby |
| Ulrich Laepple | Hartmut Renz |
| Axel Denecke | Wolfgang Raupach-Rudnick |
| Rolf Gunnar Heitmann | Berit Skjeie Meyers |
| Håvard Kleppe | Else Brit Kleppe |
| Heinrich W. Pedersen | Hanne Mikkelsen |
| Martti Tuhkanen | Tarja Säynevirta |
| Hanan Lukatz | Arthur Goldberg |
| Gershon Nerel | Ruth Denlinger |

According to the revised statutes (April 5th 1995, B2.3), members and deputies are appointed for a five year term and may be reappointed for two additional successive terms of five years each. Philip Sa'ad was an observer at the International Board as a representative of the Arab Christian sector in Israel. The recording secretary was Michael Nissim.

The Executive Committee

| Member | Deputy |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Leiv Roald Thu (Chairman) | Rolf Gunnar Heitmann |
| Gershon Nerel (Vice Chairman) | Martti Tuhkanen |
| Hanan Lukatz (from November) | Ulrich Laepple |

The Executive Committee meetings were held on the 7th of May and the 26th of November 2006. The recording secretary was Michael Nissim.

The Local Management Committee

| Member | Deputy |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Gershon Nerel | Daniel Yahav |
| Samuel Aweida | Irena Gorochov |
| Fida Ramadan | Naomi Ateeq |
| Ruth Denlinger | Beatrice Seiden |
| Berit Skjeie Meyers | Itai Meron |

The Local Management Committee met six times throughout 2006 (11/01, 08/03, 07/05, 13/09, 27/11). The recording secretaries were Johnny Khoury and Michael Nissim.

EBENEZER HOME

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The beauty of Israel. This photo was taken on the volunteers' trip in March 2006, at the height of blossom.

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Haifa, April 2007

Gershon Nerel
Chairman LMC

Johnny Khoury
Manager