

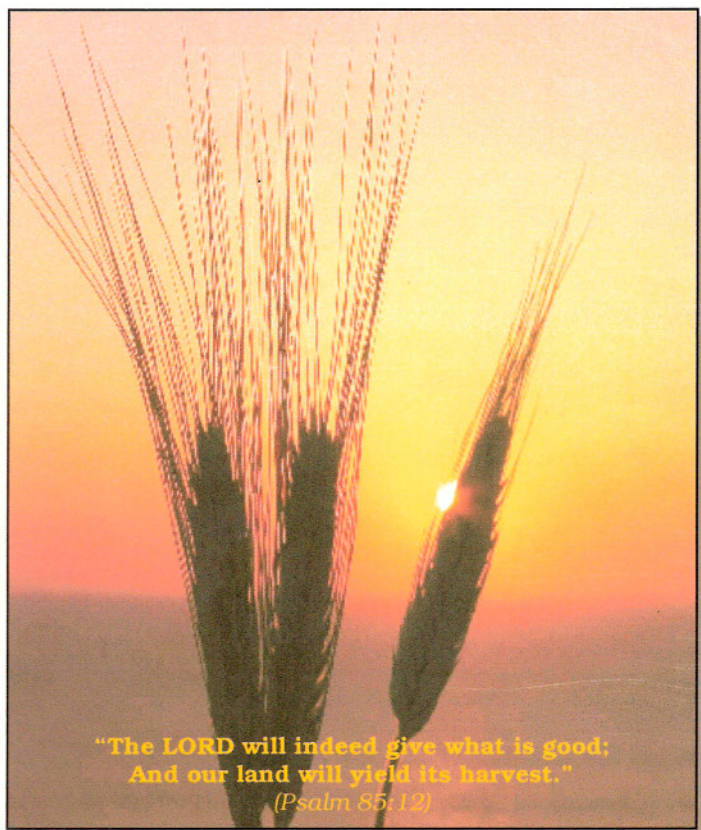
# Ebenezer Home

Haifa

## Annual Report

for

2004



**"The LORD will indeed give what is good;  
And our land will yield its harvest."**

*(Psalm 85:12)*

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**Chairman of the Local Management Committee (LMC)**

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Gershon Nerel

**“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:21)**

On behalf of the members of the LMC, Berit Meyers, Fida Ramadan, Ruth Denlinger and Samuel Aweida, I wish to testify again that the Ebenezer Home is well managed, both spiritually and practically. Also during the last year the LMC continued to supervise the Home's routine activities and we unanimously felt that the Lord has placed each person and every matter in the right place and in perfect timing. Indeed, all of the “pieces of the puzzle” at the Home portray a harmonious picture.

Some of the items on the agenda of the LMC were as follows:

- *“Kabalat Shabbat” and the Holidays:* The LMC is pleased that the major holidays are observed in the Home through common understanding between those who come from different Jewish backgrounds and those who are non-Jews. Thus, for example, the residents have agreed to celebrate the Kabalat Shabbat (Welcoming the Sabbath) by lighting the traditional Shabbat candles before everyone arrives in the dining room. This way they avoid the conflict of opinion about the formula of the blessing

for the ceremony, as particularly one resident requested to have the customary rabbinic “bracha” (blessing), while others objected. Those who want to sing some Shabbat songs can do so after the meal in the nearby Fellowship room. Special Shabbat music is played during the meal. So now the residents are happy with the way the Shabbat evening is celebrated.

Occasionally, Johnny and Shoshana celebrate Kabalat Shabbat together with the residents, and their children add a unique family atmosphere.

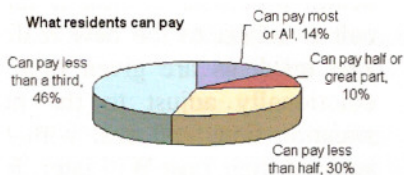
Other festivals such as Pessach (Passover), Shavuot (Pentecost), Hanukkah, Christmas and Succot (Tabernacles) are also celebrated. Thus, for example, this year the Hanukkah and Christmas parties attracted many relatives of the residents. The young people's group from the Bethesda congregation came to sing Hanukkah songs, and a group from Yad-Hashmona came to sing Christmas songs.

- *“Mossad Tsiburi” (Public Institution):* The LMC discussed with Adv. Marvin Kramer the advantages and disadvantages of registering the Home as a charitable organisation recognized by the State of Israel. As currently there are conflicting interests with regard to this matter, the LMC currently agrees that the recommendable option would be to register Ebenezer as a new Amuta (local non-profit society) only, and not the “old” Ebenezer Home Society. Meanwhile the main question remaining is the meaning of the Hebrew term “Tsiburi” (Public), and whether such new status might require the Home to accept *any* potential resident applying, directly or indirectly, to the Home. This would mean de facto a bypass of the statutes of the Home.
- *Power of Attorney:* Every resident who entered the Home during the last years has provided a Power of Attorney. This formal step enables the Home to make decisions, in a legal way, for those residents who become too dependent or are unable to function. Efforts are also made to get the residents to write their Last Will before they enter the Home. However, there are cases when the admission needs to be quick and the new residents don't have a will. In such cases, the policy is

to reduce the stress from the newcomers who suffer from health problems or find it difficult to adjust to the new reality. The residents are given time to emotionally adjust to the new situation first, and deal with the issue of their Last Will later. It is important to stress that the management is well informed of such cases and made it part of the agreement that their wills be written as soon as time and circumstances allow.

- *Residents' Fees:* In continuance with former resolutions of the International Board (IB), during the last year the LMC continued with the endeavours to implement the decision that new residents and/or their relatives will cover the realistic costs of living in the Home. So far, however, there is only partial success in this matter. In fact, in the year 2004 only 4 residents (14%) paid most or all (75%-100%) of their monthly costs. Three residents (10%) covered half or a great part (50%-75%) of their monthly fees. Nine residents (30%) covered less than half of their fees (30%-50%). The majority - 13 residents (46%) - paid less than one third (30%) of the actual dues for their monthly expenses. In other words, **almost all residents rely heavily upon permanent subsidies from vari-**

**ous donors, mostly from overseas.**



Such a financial situation clearly indicates that the Home is still far from being independent economically. Although there is a slight growth in the residents' private payments in comparison to former years, this tendency is yet too little and too slow. Practically, therefore, if the Home will continue to face the current reality, that contributors abroad constantly reduce their financial support, the Home will need to set new measures to increase the 'domestic' payments. Actually, one of the most difficult issues relates to investigations into the private savings and properties of the residents and/or their relatives. Such investigations are a norm in other Israeli institutions for the elderly. Alternately, **the Ebenezer Home will need to insist on greater financial commitment of the local congregations.** Sooner rather than later, additional efforts will be required to increase the much needed real payments from locals.

It is obvious, therefore, that in order to break even, a basic and quick change in mentality is needed – yet not only among the Israelis, but also among brethren abroad. Both those who receive gifts and those who have the privilege of giving them, a system which developed into a unique "symbiosis" within the current situation, will have to move towards a new method of cooperation. Furthermore, as long as the shortage in the income from the residents remains, it is beyond the present reality to plan the establishment of another Home for the elderly somewhere else in Israel.

- *30th Anniversary in 2006:* The LMC discussed whether we should celebrate this event and how. Eventually the LMC members recommended to have one collaborative event with residents' families, pastors and congregation elders, as well as the members of the International Board, and this - during the annual meeting at the Home in spring 2006.

All honour to Yeshua, our Lord and Saviour, and may He bless Ebenezer, all those who live in the Home and those who support it everywhere.

## ***MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS COMMITTEES AND THE MEETINGS HELD IN 2004***

### **The International Board**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Deputy</b>
John Edvard Olsen (Chairman)	Håvard Kleppe
Marta Eigeles	Berit Meyers
Ulrich Laepple	Hartmut Renz
Matthias Dahl	Wolfgang Raupach- Rudnik
David Sedaca	
Rolf Gunnar Heitmann	Terje Bakke
Heinrich Pedersen	Anne-Line Friis
Martti Tuhkanen	Toini Suopellonmaki
Gershon Nerel	Ruth Denlinger
Hanan Lukatz	
Philip Sa'ad (Observer)	

The International Board had its annual meeting in 2004 on the 7th-8th of June. Samuel Aweida functioned as the recording secretary at this meeting. Next year, from January Leiv Roald Thu will replace John Edvard Olsen as chairman and Dr. Axel Denecke will replace Matthias Dahl as member of the International Board. Both of them came to this year's meeting to work together.

## The Executive Committee

<b>Member</b>	<b>Deputy</b>
John Edvard Olsen	Marta Eigeles
Ulrich Laepple	Matthias Dahl
Gershon Nerel	Martti Tuhkanen

The Executive Committee held its two regular meetings on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June and the 31<sup>st</sup> of October. Johnny Khoury was the recording secretary at these meetings.

## The Local Management Committee

<b>Member</b>	<b>Deputy</b>
Gershon Nerel	Daniel Yahav
Samuel Aweida	Benjamin Shenkman
Fida Ramadan	Naomi Ateeq
Ruth Denlinger	Beatrice Seiden
Berit Skjeie Meyers	Itai Meron

The manager, head nurse, housemother and social worker were present as observers at these meetings. Six meetings were held during the year. Shoshana Khoury (Activity Organizer/ Social Support) functioned as the recording secretary of the LMC meetings.

## EBENEZER HOME

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Haifa, Israël

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Manager (home): +972 - 4 - 852 2723

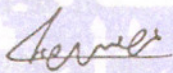
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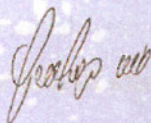
### Website:

<http://www.ebenezer.co.il>

Haifa, April 2005



Gershon Nerel  
Chairman LMC



Johnny Khoury  
Manager