



RAMBAM
Health Care Campus

Christian Friends of Rambam Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER 2013

FACTS & FIGURES

Invested to date
for Rambam's
"West Campus"
development:
US\$180 million

Still needed to
fully equip the
Sammy Ofer
Fortified
Underground
Emergency
Hospital:
US\$10 million

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Feast

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Special Feast of Tabernacles Issue

The word harvest, *katzir* (קציר) in Hebrew, is the physical action of gathering a crop. The theme for the Feast of Tabernacles celebration in Jerusalem, *harvest* can represent many things.

Rambam's harvest as an academic research hospital is the fruit of saved lives and the new treatments and therapies made possible via collaborative research.

Seed and hard work are needed to reap a harvest. Philanthropy is one type of seed, contributing to Rambam's achievements by helping to fund new facilities and

equipment, and ground-breaking research and patient treatments.

Nearly 5,000 people work in Rambam's "fields" day and night, treating patients, analyzing data, seeking new cures, plowing and watering with knowledge, compassion, and dedication.

Your prayers are another type of seed for our harvest: prayer for the work of our medical professionals, health and healing for our patients, and provision of our needs so that we can continue to provide the best care possible, safely, to the people of Northern Israel.

Thank you for sowing seeds towards our harvest of health, life, and hope for Israelis in need of safe medical care.



The Rambam team at the Feast with a visitor from Brazil. Left to right: Talia Zaks, Abramo, Deborah Hemstreet, and Ellen Shapira.

Why Support and Pray for Rambam?

At the Feast, Thomas Brategerd, from Norway approached the Rambam booth with great curiosity. His reaction was electric, "Everyone needs to know about this!"

Thomas had just learned that the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital is finished and will open shortly in its peacetime configuration, despite the lack of equipment for this 2,000-bed facility—the largest of its kind in the world. His excitement grew as he learned about the Palestinians and injured Syrians also treated at Rambam.

Thomas visited our booth every day to say hello and ask a few questions. We asked why he found Rambam so interesting.

"You don't only treat Israelis, you also treat Palestinians and Syrians," Thomas shared. "You say that a human life is a human life; to me that shows tremendous respect. Every serious health aid organization should support Rambam—You

are treating everybody as a human and not as a nationality."

Thomas was also intrigued by the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital. "I hope and pray that you won't have to use it," he continued, "but it's all about being prepared, about meeting needs—what you need when you need it. In Norway we have a saying, 'It is easy to be wise after the accident.' Rambam is being proactive, seeing things before they happen, so that you can act when it happens."

Thomas said it better than we could! For more information about supporting and praying for Rambam, read the last page of this newsletter.



In the News and at the Feast



Deborah Being Interviewed

Photo: Israel Now News



While preparing yet another news story sharing about a unique medical recovery at Rambam, I asked a colleague, “Doesn’t it seem like we’ve had a lot of these kinds of stories this year?”

Her answer? “Yes, now that you mention it, it does...”

Prayer is the unseen power behind so much; many of us may never know the precise answers to our prayers—at least not now.

Other answers to prayer were increased exposure of Rambam’s projects in the Christian media. DayStar TV

recently interviewed a Rambam Health Care Campus representative for their Ask the Source segment on Israel Now News.

The program, televised worldwide, focused on Christian Friends of Rambam and the impact Rambam is having for patient safety as well as in caring for people beyond Israel’s borders.

[Watch the Interview on YouTube](#)

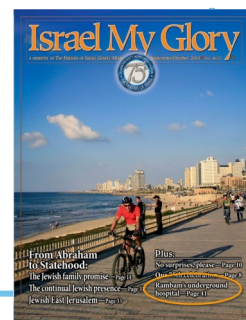
Next, we learned that the magazine, [Israel My Glory](#) had a one column article about

Rambam in their “Israel in the News” section.

Then, in Jerusalem, many more people committed to pray for and support Rambam.

[See Rambam at the Feast on YouTube](#)

Each opportunity to tell others our story, in turn opens new doors for prayer and support for Rambam.



Meet Shaked

Shaked is an 18-year-old communications major at Rali High School in Haifa, Israel. Shaked will soon begin serving in the Israel Defense Forces as a volunteer.

She recently completed her second round of cancer therapy at Rambam, which included a bone transplant.

Under treatment since the age of 14, she has produced a movie about her experience at Rambam to encourage other kids in similar experiences.

When interviewed, Shaked shared, “I wanted to use the experience of myself and my friends to encourage other

kids to get better. The doctors and nurses joined in helping us to laugh, sing, and look for health instead of how sick we were or could be.”

[Watch Shaked’s Movie on YouTube](#)

Meet Asael

During the Second Lebanon War, Officer Asael Lubotzky (now aged 30) from the esteemed Golani Infantry Brigade, was admitted to Rambam Health Care Campus after being seriously wounded from a direct anti-tank missile at the site of what became known as the Battle of Bint

Jbeil. From the moment he began to receive treatment in the field and up until his arrival to the hospital, none of the treating doctors imagined that his right leg could be salvaged, but Dr. Alexander Lerner that operated on him at Rambam thought differently.

Dr. Lerner was right and several months later, Asael Lubotzky stood under a chuppah and crushed glass with his right leg—at his own wedding. Today, Asael is studying to become a doctor.

[Watch Asael’s Story on YouTube](#)

Faith to Heal Hearts

Visiting senior cardiac surgeon Dr. Kari Teittinen of Finland recently came to Israel at the invitation of Dr. Gil Bolotin, Director of the Cardiac Surgery Department at Rambam Health Care Campus. His journey to Israel began at age 14 when he became a Christian, was further inspired by a book he read in adulthood, first realized on a Sukkot pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and has culminated in a vibrant professional collaboration with Rambam.

"In 1992 I was on holiday and had time to read," Dr. Teittinen relates. "One book led to another, and my thinking changed. *Our Hands are Stained with Blood*, by Dr. Michael Crown, was in particular a revelation to me—I realized that we Christians had done [the Jews] many wrongs, especially during World War II. Most of us did nothing, we were quiet, and the attitude of so many towards the Jewish people was wrong. It was a revolution in my thinking."

Dr. Teittinen was challenged by what he'd read. "I was a young surgeon in a

local hospital near the Russian border at the time. I began thinking that one day I would visit Israel and help the Jewish people."

The young man went on to specialize in cardiac surgery, in Helsinki. Many years passed, but the idea of visiting Israel remained in the back of his mind. In 2008, Dr. Teittinen became Head of Cardiac Surgery at a hospital in Vasa, Finland. The following year, while planning a vacation, he contacted friends—a Finnish woman who'd married a Jewish Israeli—who lived in Northern Israel. In 2009, Dr. Teittinen came

to Israel for Sukkot and participated in the Jerusalem March. His friends took him to see Rambam where he first met Dr. Bolotin.

On his return home, Dr. Teittinen remained in contact with Dr. Bolotin. The result is an international collaboration that has benefited both hospitals, with Rambam doctors performing operations in Finnish hospital departments, and vice-versa.

"I was working alone, the only cardiac surgeon in our hospital, and 240 km away from the nearest university hospital," Dr. Teittinen recalls. "They didn't want to send anyone to help me, but Rambam was willing to send residents and specialists to help in our department for 1–3 weeks, several times a year." In October 2012,

Dr. Bolotin invited Dr. Teittinen to Rambam for a year.

Asked what he

likes best about working at Rambam, he replies, "Teamwork! People in Israel work together much more than we do in Finland, and that's good."

How else does working at Rambam compare with working in Finland?

"People in Finland don't want the physician to call their families after surgery and tell them how their loved one is," he replies. "They're afraid that if the doctor calls from the hospital, something's wrong. In Israel, the family is waiting outside the Operating Room door after



Dr. Kari Teittinen (left) with Deborah Hemstreet (right) at Rambam.

Photo: Pieter Fliter, RHCC

surgery and wants to know everything—immediately! Also, in Finland, people don't show their emotions as openly as in Israel."

Dr. Teittinen adds that people in Israel have more illnesses than in Scandinavia. "I think it's because they're under more stress, and there are also genetic factors," he says.

He notes that both countries have economic difficulties. "From time to time, we talk about closing departments and even hospitals in Finland. I don't like that

approach! Rambam is looking forward by building new facilities. You're receiving more and more patients and are preparing to care for them. Most exciting for me, you're building the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital. You're preparing for what might happen in the future."

[Read More](#) about this special collaboration



Rambam's Dr. Ziv Beckerman (middle) with Dr. Kari Teittinen (right) and Dr. Anti (left) during a visit to the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the Vassa Hospital in Finland.



RAMBAM Health Care Campus

Creating the future of medicine.

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Donate Now by Credit Card

For more information:



www.rambam.org.il



[rambamhospital](https://www.youtube.com/rambamhospital)



Rambam Health Care Campus - Hospital



Ways to Give

Rambam Health Care Campus relies on philanthropy for replacing old equipment, new facilities, research, and more. Your gift counts—whatever the amount. Following are just a few ways you can support the people of Israel via Rambam Health Care Campus.

Pray for Us and Share with Others:

Visit our Facebook page for special new, prayer requests and other information of interest. Please [LIKE us on Facebook](#) and share our articles with your friends.

Friends Organizations: Tax-deductible donations can be made via a Friends organization near you (listed above). If sending checks, please write the check using the full name of the organization (for example, American Friends of Rambam Medical Center).

PayPal and Credit Card: [PayPal donations](#) can be made via our website. Or, download a credit card [donations](#) form and send it fax to: +972-4-851-5527, by email to: y_aguda@rambam.health.gov.il.

Information to Provide: Please send your full name and address, so that we can send you a receipt. Be sure to specify what your donation is for, otherwise it will be applied to a general fund. We would also like to know how you heard about Rambam (for example, at the Feast, on TV, or via the Christian Friends Newsletter).

Thank you in advance for your prayers, concern, and gifts for the health and well-being of Northern Israel and the patients served at Rambam Health Care Campus.

Cast your bread on the waters, for you will find it after many days...

Ecclesiastes 11:1

Special Needs

Please pray for our needs and consider a donation towards one of these items:

Expansion of the Medical Clowning Program: It costs ~\$15,000 to employ one medical clown for one year.

[Read more about Medical Clowns](#)

Ultrasound Scanner: Needed for the Department of Nephrology and Hypertension, this device costs ~\$50,000.

Mobile Ventilator: Used to assist with breathing, 10 new devices are needed at ~\$15,500 each.

Target Controlled Syringe Pumps: Generally used to provide surgical anesthesia, 10 new pumps are needed at ~\$2,500 per pump.

Equipment for the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital: Beds and other equipment are urgently needed, to assure we are prepared for every eventuality.