

On a Clear Day in Har Bracha

“And Moses charged the people the same day saying: These shall stand upon Mount Gerizim to bless the people, when you are come over the Jordan.”
(Deuteronomy 27:12)

Ever since Moses spoke these holy words, Mt. Gerizim has been known as the Mountain of Blessing, or in Hebrew, “Har Bracha.” It was particularly fitting, therefore, when Jews first returned to the area of Shechem (Nablus), to create modern communities in Samaria, that a new community would arise on Mt. Gerizim, the mountain of blessing.

Har Bracha was founded in 1982 by a small group of families who were eager to settle the biblical mountain of blessing. It takes a particular brand of pioneering spirit and determination to build a community on the isolated, wind-swept mountain overlooking Shechem, and despite the hardships, the community is growing steadily. There are over 200 families living in Har Bracha. School-age children go to school in nearby Elon Moreh and must travel on bulletproof buses through an area adjacent to the city of Shechem, which is controlled by the Palestinian Authority. The local yeshiva, where young men combine advanced Bible studies with service in the army, attracts students from all over Israel. After their studies, many join the community on a permanent basis.

The community’s development is miraculous considering the difficult security situation. As homes are built, they are quickly occupied, with a waiting list of people wanting to join. In addition, Har Bracha’s natural growth is truly impressive—in 2009 alone, more than 80 babies were born! There are close to 400 children in the community, from newborn to five years old! This Mountain of Blessing is truly blessed.

The people of Har Bracha would like to take their strategically important and beautiful mountaintop home, and turn it into a lovely Lookout Point. This Lookout Point will serve a double purpose. The viewpoint promises to offer a breathtaking view of the Israeli coastal plain from the west, the mountains of Jordan from the south, and below, a generous spread of valley. This Lookout Point will also be a wonderfully educational project, teaching visiting tourists about the area, publicizing for all, what this spot means to the residents and to the country at large. They need to do some basic landscaping, build seating areas and set up a station which will provide explanatory signs of the view and the area.



- The people of Har Bracha are unusually idealistic. They believe in settling the land and are willing to give up on comforts available in other communities.
- A Lookout Point can allow the people of Har Bracha to share the beauty of the area with people from all over Israel and, indeed, from all over the world.



Your contribution to this project will not only provide a welcome oasis for the people of Har Bracha, but will also help us build an important tourist attraction. It will also show moral support for the people of Har Bracha. It will express your faith in the future of this vibrant, growing community. It will send a strong message of love to the brave pioneers of Har Bracha. The Mountain of Blessing (Har Bracha) - there aren't many places in the world with such a name. May they continue to be blessed.

Project Budget

Landscaping, seating areas, explanatory signs..... \$7,940

TOTAL FUNDS REQUIRED:\$7,940

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