

Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>  
Har Herzl and Latrun  
Daniel's Birthday!  
Written by David Glick

Today was a day of learning about the military strength that resides in and protects the great nation of Israel. We also had a chance to talk about the man Herzl, who had the dream that made a Jewish State possible here in Israel. We saw the people and technology that fought to keep Israel alive and strong.

Our first stop was to the national military cemetery, Har Herzl. The layout of the cemetery has Herzl, the initial visionary, at the top of the mountain. On the level below Herzl holds the prime ministers and presidents including Yitzhak Rabin who was given a special headstone. It was different in color and shape from the other stones, most likely due to the special way in which he led his life, and its tragic end, assassination by a fellow Jew. On the next level down on the mountain, the soldiers who died in active duty as well as the victims of terror attacks were buried. On this level of the cemetery, we visited the graves of Hannah Senesh, Michael Levin, and Yonatan Netanyahu. The bottom level of the mountain holds victims of the holocaust. Yad Vashem is at the base of this mountain.

After we left Har Herzl, we met our former teacher, Zvi Geva, at Latrun (a tank museum). We looked at some of Israel's first armored vehicles, which were slightly more protected than regular trucks. We then looked at some of the tanks that Israel smuggled in from or purchased outright from other nations such as France, Russia, and Britain. We saw some of the tanks that Israel captured during various operations, and we then focused on the tanks that Israel designed and built. These tanks were specially made for Israel's needs including covering large distances, being able to handle the desert in the south and the hills of the north, as well as maneuvering in covert operations.

We had a blast climbing on the tanks, exploring them from the outside and looking at the model that was cut in half in order to see the inside. We also loved that Mr. Geva was able to do this special tour for us at Latrun, as in the army, he was a tank gunner, and shared a great deal of first hand knowledge with us.

After we left Mr. Geva and Latrun, our focus shifted as we checked in to our hostel for the night in Jaffa. After dinner we went to the production, *Not By Bread Alone*. This was no ordinary production, but rather an inspiring story told by deaf and blind actors about the value of dreams and the obstacles they face in every day life. This show was different than anything any of us had ever seen before, and it was amazing.