



American Friends *of the*
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
Building Presence – Building Peace

September 2009

25 Old King's Hwy No, Suite 13, Darien CT 06820



Education can never be taken
away.....

Dear Friend of AFEDJ

Our recent visit to the Diocese was filled with energy, hope and families making difficult choices. At St. George's School in Jerusalem, we met a family with three boys enrolled. They were so happy to have their children in an academically enriching environment with respect for differences, listening and Christian values embedded in the curriculum. They're a Muslim family. They value the parenting skills and encouragement they receive. But their two girls are almost school age and even with scholarship help, they struggle to pay the boy's fees. We can't let these children down. Will you help us educate every child in an atmosphere of tolerance and love? This is where peace begins.

Phoebe Griswold, President of the Board



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Quick Links

AFEDJ
www.afedj.org

Diocese of Jerusalem
www.j-diocese

St. George's College
www.sqcjerusalem.org

Holy Sepulchre courtyard in 360 degrees!
www.360tr.com/kudus/kiyamet_eng/index.htm

DONATE NOW



Christ School Rises Above Nazareth



1400 hard-working students are crammed into the beautiful Christ School campus perched above Nazareth. The waiting list is long because academic standards are high. Christian and Muslim kids study computer programming, English, physics, and other disciplines, preparing them for good jobs and a real future. But space is so limited that classes are occasionally held outside (see top photo) and in corridors. The Diocese made the bold decision to

expand, allowing more families access to the values taught here. Bishop Dawani is counting on the generosity of donors to support construction costs for the 8 classroom addition pictured on the left.

Students described books they're reading in English about unlikely friendships -- something they understand firsthand. Others were developing computer programs to integrate software. Most go on to university. Without Christ School, these students would be facing very different choices. This school sets the standard for what the Diocese hopes to provide for many more in the future. The possibilities are thrilling.

Basma Center Evolves Along with the Need



Enam has been treating disabled children at the Basma Center for 12 years. She helps those with cerebral palsy train their brains and bodies to work together using toys, household items and her considerable imagination. Eman recognizes that when patients leave her care, their mothers will need to know how to continue the work and somehow make it fun. It's a challenge that means the difference between a productive adult and a permanent dependent.

The goal is to provide each child with exactly what's needed so each can reach his full potential. Two outreach clinics now serve those who cannot get to East Jerusalem, greatly expanding the reach and the effectiveness of the program. More outreach clinics are needed so families know there's help for a child with a congenital defect, a physical disability, autism or recent traumatic injury.

The onsite school mainstreams disabled and able-bodied students, modeling respect for differences and tolerance for all. Fayed, above, is blind. His friend, Nikola is sighted. They're best friends. A sheltered workshop provides employment for impaired adults in woodworking, repair and more. As with all Diocesan programs, this one provides scholarship aid and serves those of any faith or nationality.

The Basma Center is a national referral center, recognized as providing unparalleled care in a difficult, some would say impossible, environment. It relies on donations for over 1/3 of its \$2 million budget. You can be there for these children.

Pilgrimages and Events

Experience the Holy Land first hand. Most pilgrimages welcome participants from anywhere. Contact the organizer for further information.

Sept. 30 to Oct. 11, 2009 pilgrimage led by the Rev. Keith Yamamoto, Diocese of Los Angeles:

<http://web.me.com/keithyamamoto/pilgrimage/holyland/holyland.html>

Oct. 26 to Nov. 8, 2009 pilgrimage led by Interfaith Peace Builders in Washington DC. www.ifpb.org. Trips also planned for May 22, July 24 and Oct. 30, 2010.

Oct. 29 to Nov. 6, 2009 pilgrimage led by Sabeel and Maurine Tobin in Maine. www.sabeel.org or mmtobin38@gmail.com

Feb. 21 to Mar. 10, 2010 pilgrimage led by the Rev. Megan Holloway in Virginia. Grace.assist@verizon.net

April 6 to April 18, 2010 pilgrimage led by the Rev. Deborah Dresser from New York. deborahdresser@gmail.com

April 27 to May 8, 2010 pilgrimage led by the Most Rev. Frank Griswold and the Rev. Louis Weil. frconrad@gmail.com.



Or create your own personal trip by requesting a course catalog from St. George's College in East Jerusalem at www.sgcjerusalem.org. Fees cover room and board at the college and any field trips. "Palestine of Jesus," "St. Paul and the Early Church," youth courses and much more.

Get ready for St. Nicholas Day, Dec. 6

Bring the spirit of the patron saint of needy children to needy children in the Holy Land today. Go to www.afedj.org to find resources, a pageant, hymns, prayers and craft projects that will engage everyone in your congregation. (St. Nicholas web pages under construction)

Then send the proceeds of your ingathering to AFEDJ at 25 Old King's Highway North, Suite 13, Darien CT 06820. We'll get it to the Holy Land in time to create some Christmas joy. Call Anne Lynn, AFEDJ Director, for more ideas: 203-655-3575



The AFEDJ is a nonprofit, non-political 501c3 which helps sustain the institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. These include 13 schools, 3 hospitals, 5 institutes for the disabled and 4 affiliates spread over Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. All provide for those in need regardless of religious background. All foster mutual respect and tolerance in a land torn by turmoil and poverty. Learn more about the work of the AFEDJ or the Diocese of Jerusalem. Visit

www.afedj.org to contribute to any of the important work done in the region. Or visit www.j-diocese.org for a direct link to the Diocese of Jerusalem.

**Request the
AFEDJ annual
report or Planned
Giving brochure**

AFEDJ would love to send you our 2008 Annual Report. Just email aklynn@afedj.org 2008

Planned Giving isn't just for the wealthy. Insure that the causes you care about receive the gifts you want. Request our Planned Giving brochure by emailing aklynn@afedj.org. No obligation, no one will call.

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