



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

July 2010

25 Old King's Highway North, Suite 13, Darien CT 06820



Saviour's School

Zarka, Jordan

Making something important
out of very little

Greetings!

A gift must be unwrapped before you can appreciate what's inside. It may not look like much at first, but could contain a wonderful and startling surprise. Our recent visit to Diocesan institutions in Jordan proves this point and we'll share that experience over the next few e-newsletters.

This one focuses on Saviour's School in Zarka, a dusty, hot city with virtually nothing for a child to do outside of school. The gift of education delivered by Dua'a Al Basharat and her staff is wrapped in a bare, cramped concrete box of a building with nothing but rudimentary essentials. Yet creativity, learning and hope abound. As this school unfolded before our eyes, we longed for ways to provide for their needs. Please support these kids. They're a gift to each of us.

Anne K. Lynn, Executive

Director

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[DONATE NOW!](#)

[Click here](#)

Quick Links

- [AFEDJ](#)

- [St. George's College](#)

- [Diocese of Jerusalem](#)

Saviour School needs our help

On a hot, dusty day in late June, a visit to a little known central Jordan city may not hold much appeal. The temperature rose above 100 and the air was stagnant. The marketplace had a few listless patrons as we pulled up to the inconspicuous and inauspicious entrance to Saviour's School.

Immediately the atmosphere was completely transformed by energetic greetings in a tiny but efficient courtyard that serves as parking, playground and entrance to classrooms. Saviour School educates 380 students, crammed into grades K-12, integrating blind and low vision with normal sighted children. Entrance is by examination and standards are high.



Facilities are bare bones by any standard. Teenagers and 6 year olds vie for space in hallways and cramped classrooms with ancient furniture. Equipment is minimal. A library, gym, cafeteria, playing fields, even proper teaching tools for the blind students are waiting for your donations.

But this hasn't dampened accomplishment. 46 students celebrated their experience at graduation ceremonies, attended by the entire student body, proud parents and family and the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani. Bp Dawani challenged them to work and act in ways that combine ethical and scientific standards, engage in civil societies initiatives and become positive actors in the region. Several graduates will attend university, and all would go if scholarship funds were available.



low vision students at Art Show

Somehow teachers found a way to mount an Art Day (pictured above) which encouraged creativity and exhibited and celebrated real talent. They also mounted a play in English, with "sets" and costumes. Both staff and students were enormously proud of these accomplishments, made all the more poignant by the effort involved.

Equipment and space for the growing kindergarten (ages 3 to 6) is the immediate, critical need. The adjacent property is available for sale if the purchase price could be found. We came away with the real sense that this school is possibly the only thing that stands between many of these kids and a dead end future.

Please seriously consider helping them find a way forward.

Headmaster visits Connecticut



Rev. Tom Furrer, Rev. Hanna Monsour, Rt. Rev. Andrew and Kate Smith

The Rev. Hanna Monsour visited Trinity Church Southport CT during June and took the opportunity to speak to groups around the state. Fr. Hanna was most recently Headmaster of the Schneller School in Amman and will begin ministry in Salt, Jordan next month. 35 people heard him in Tariffville CT and enjoyed a Middle Eastern dinner as well. Thanks to AFEDJ Board member Laird Mortimer and Advisory Council member Rev. Nicholas Porter for organizing.

News, Trips and Activities

Awareness Foundation, headquartered in London, is offering a course to help participants explore their faith in the context of today's reality. It brings Islam and Judaism into conversation with Christianity with a goal of reducing insecurity while increasing dialogue and understanding. More information at www.awareness-foundation.com or mail@awareness-foundation.com.

World Council of Churches holds an annual week of prayer for Christian unity in January. The Council announced that this year, January 18 - 25, 2011 would focus on Jerusalem, One in the Apostles' Teaching Fellowship. Resources are available in five languages at www.iokoumene.org.

Sabeel offers a Contemporary Way of the Cross visit to the Holy Land October 14 -23. Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth and the Wet Bank are included. Details at www.fosna.org.

Here's an offer you can't refuse. Support **Ahli Hospital in Gaza** while you do your **Amazon.com** shopping. The Rev. Linda Hergenrather has developed a website, Web Lynda, which links to Amazon. By getting to Amazon through Lynda's site, a portion of your purchase price goes to support Ahli Hospital. Go to www.lynda.us and give it a try. Thanks Lynda!



The AFEDJ is a nonprofit, non-political 501c3 which helps sustain the humanitarian institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem -- schools, hospitals and institutes for the disabled. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Diocesan institutions 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 learn about or contribute to any of the important work done in the region.