



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

February 2010

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



Thank you for your  
2009 support

## Dear Friend of AFEDJ

The children, families and elderly in the Diocese of Jerusalem are deeply grateful for your generous support in 2009. It was a difficult year economically, but you provided a van for disabled children at the Basma Centre, gave scholarship aid to the children pictured above at the Arab Evangelical School in Ramallah, and built new classrooms in Nazareth. You bought bandages in Gaza, food in Nablus, Braille machines in Irbid, Jordan and so much more.

But most importantly, you brought hope to a struggling people. Thank you!

## School in Ramallah needs help for special students

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Sama and Nikola are bright, eager and full of energy. But their teachers at the Arab Evangelical Episcopal School in Ramallah noticed that they had great difficulty reading. They worked hard, but the words didn't come. A teacher suggested that they may have a learning disability which requires evaluation and remediation. To reach their full potential these children and others like them need specialized educational techniques just as American children routinely receive.

Evaluation by a specialist costs \$150 per pupil, a fortune in this school. Parents can't afford it. We can't let these kids fall behind. This Lent, help them learn and achieve, to become valuable future employees and leaders.

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Each dollar makes a difference

Our 2009 **Annual Report** is now available. Request one from [aklynn@afedj.org](mailto:aklynn@afedj.org) or visit our website at [www.afedj.org](http://www.afedj.org).

## Gaza Update

We received the following report from Suhaila Terazi, Director of Ahli Hospital in Gaza:

"Infrastructure, homes and businesses remain badly damaged, with severely restricted supplies entering Gaza, through official border crossings. Goods that are available are not affordable to most residents. Families make tough decisions about how and who to feed. Sickness is prevalent given substandard housing and lack of sanitary water and facilities.

"The staff at Ahli Hospital with your support continues to operate their vital mobile medical clinic, visiting the poor in their own neighborhoods. The programs for malnourished children and elderly, and for chronically ill women dramatically improves the quality of life for many. The new mental health outreach program has been expanded, providing for post and ongoing traumatic stress care for families. This specialized program was designed especially for Gaza, with training provided to mothers who then take learned stress reduction techniques and lessons home to their families."

Your generosity made a difference in desperate situation. Thank you!

## Events and activities

**Tuesday, February 16 in Los Angeles** Bishop Jon Bruno will launch the Order of the Jerusalem Cross. an invitational ministry for those who have been to the Holy Land and are eager to help educate and inspire others. Special guest speaker Maria Khoury from Taybeh. For further information, contact Sue and Sandy Smock at [sssmockjr@aol.com](mailto:sssmockjr@aol.com).

**Sabeel conferences across the country.** Sabeel is an advocacy group in support of Palestinian Christians. Conferences broaden awareness and provide tools to educate. Dates are Seattle, February 19 and 20, Honolulu, February 26 and 27, Marin County CA, March 5 and 6. For further information, go to [www.fosna.org](http://www.fosna.org) Sabeel is also offering a Contemporary Way of the Cross pilgrimage to the Holy Land, April 8 to the 17.

Other Holy Land trips: **April 27 to May 8** led by former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold and the Rev. Louis Weil. information by emailing [frconrad@gmail.com](mailto:frconrad@gmail.com). **April 28 to May 12**, there will be a Women's Pilgrimage led by the Rev. Jodene Hawkins. Information by emailing [jodene@hawaii.it.com](mailto:jodene@hawaii.it.com). **May 10 to May 21**, join a group from Riverside CA led by the Rev. Diane Bruce and the Rev. John Conrad. Information by emailing [frconrad@gmail.com](mailto:frconrad@gmail.com). **On June 18 to June 30**, the Rt. Rev, Jon Bruno, the Rev. Anne Tumilty and the Rev. John Peterson will lead a trip as well. For information, email [sssmockjr@aol.com](mailto:sssmockjr@aol.com). A Youth Pilgrimage organized by Kanuga Conferences is designed for those 16-20 runs from **July 24 to Aug 7**. For information, go to [www.kanuga.org/conferences](http://www.kanuga.org/conferences). Fall trips are being organized by St. Michael and All Angels in Dallas and Sabeel.



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](http://www.afedj.org) to learn about or contribute to any of the important work done in the region.