

Subject: Bold steps forward in East Jerusalem



**AMERICAN FRIENDS *of the*
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* JERUSALEM**

October
2011

25 Old King's Highway North, Suite 13, Darien, Connecticut
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What does American
politics have to do with
disabled children in
Jerusalem?

Princess Basma Centre

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"Everyone Everywhere" is the national conversation of the Episcopal Church around mission, foreign and domestic. It was held in Colorado, Oct. 13-15, with hundreds in attendance. AFEDJ was there, displaying, presenting, raffling and collecting names to increase our capacity to educate those in the US about the issues and needs in the Holy Land.



Vice President of the Board Rev. Deborah Dresser and Secretary of the Board Lorraine Reeder represented AFEDJ. They made the case the while all mission is the core value of our faith, the Holy Land is different. As the land where Jesus lived, died and defined his ministry it's the only place physically connected to our

faith heritage. It's the root of the tree. The Christian community is leaving -- dwindling from a combination of physical suffering and emotional isolation. Help us stabilize these communities, encourage Christians to stay and grow their presence, modeling the values of respect for differences and tolerance. Click on the Donate Now button -- now!

Princess Basma Centre is caught by US policy



The US Congress has voted to withhold promised foreign aid to the Palestinian Authority. This may seem like good politics to some, but the result is potentially disastrous for the poor and disabled in the Holy Land.

In the US, a child in a wheelchair is, blessedly, a rarity. A blind or deaf child even more so. But at the Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children in East

Jerusalem, there are 8 children with cochlear implants - and that's the 4 years old class. And those children are pictured above. There are dozens with leg braces and thick glasses. They come from all over the West Bank since the Centre is a regional referral resource, with the best available services for those with disabilities of all types. Why are there so many disabled people in the Holy Land?

Betty Majaj, Director of Princess Basma, explained that untreated childhood infections, unvaccinated children, a culture of close marriages, late intervention and genetics are the primary causes. Lack of access to primary care can mean that small, treatable conditions needlessly result in permanent disabilities.

US foreign aid funds humanitarian aid around the world. And it helps Princess Basma's outreach to 30 communities. They provide the follow-up care for those who have been through a program at the Centre and then returned to their home villages. It's also the early diagnosis opportunity for rural children. Without outreach, more will be unable to contribute to their families and their communities, unable to reach their potential. And they become a burden and a cultural embarrassment for already struggling families.



In addition to concern about funding for the outreach program, the cost of heating fuel has risen dramatically in the last year. Sick children need heated rooms. The Centre cannot afford to fill the hydrotherapy pool which provides relief to those with constricted muscles and coordination problems.

Please give Haleem and Yousef a chance for a normal life. Princess

Basma needs help with scholarships to its school, paying for heating, food, diapers and books. The Donate Now button is a fast and secure way to make a gift now, which will be remembered forever.

Needs



St. George's College in Jerusalem needs a new Warden. This is a volunteer position for one year beginning January 1. Housing and some meals are included. The position involves coordinating hospitality needs for adult students such as rooms, meals and some transportation. Those who have held the position have deepened their understanding of the region and their faith tradition. Apply to the Rev. Graham Smith, Dean, at grahamsherry@gmail.com.

St. Saviour's School in Zarka, Jordan mainstreams blind children with the sighted ones. They have an antiquated plumbing system which presents sanitation concerns. Would you consider buying them a toilet at \$100 each? They need 8. Or a sink at \$30 each. They need 4.

The Hotel School at the **Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center** has renovated its training kitchen. The school prepares high school students for employment in the hospitality industry. But they need equipment for the kitchen. Please make a gift of stainless mixing bowls, baking pans or a commercial grade food processor. A gift of any size is greatly appreciated. Just click [here](#) to make a fast, secure gift.

The Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children spent \$700 for a week of heating last February. Please help them keep their children warm this year. Your donation will truly make a difference.

Trips and Ideas



Do your holiday shopping, get those hostess gifts and help Palestinian farmers sustain their olive trees! Check out **Import Peace** for olive oil, herbs, soap, etc. at www.importpeace.org. This is a volunteer Presbyterian ministry and part of the proceeds come to AFEDJ.

Annandale VA, Saturday, October 29 All day Sabeel conference "Jesus, Justice, Palestine-Israel" with Professor Richard Horsely PhD at the Ravensworth Baptist Church. \$30 includes lunch. avocets@bell.nu for more information.

Cambridge Mass. Friday, November 4. The Harvard College Palestine Solidarity Committee and the First Congregational Church of Old Lyme host the conference Voices of Conscience: Cross-generational Perspectives on Israel-Palestine. At Memorial Church, 6 to 10 pm. More information at www.tolef.org/harvard-november-4/

Atlanta Ga, November 10-12 Sabeel conference "From Birmingham to Bethlehem: Non-violence in the US and Palestine-Israel" at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3003 Howell Mill Road Northwest. For more information, contact Jim McGowen at 706-224-8824.

St. George's College, Jerusalem, December 6 -15, "Advent in the Holy Land." Course includes accommodations in East Jerusalem. For more information, go to www.sgcjerusalem.org.

Sacramento CA, March 16-17, 2012 Sabeel conference "A Time for Justice Supporting Human Rights in Palestine-Israel" at the First United Methodist Church, 21st and J Streets. Contact sabeelsacramento@gmail.com for more information.

Pilgrimage to Turkey and Israel May 1-15, 2012. Travel with the Rev. Mark and Barbara Huggenvik from Denver. Email them for more info at mhuggen@aol.com



The AFEDJ is an independent, 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 the AFEDJ website to learn about or contribute to any of the important work done in the region.