



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

March 2011

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



The elderly suffer
in the West Bank

New program in Birzeit

Greetings!

We've grown used to the idea that the Middle East is a volatile, unpredictable environment where things can go horribly wrong without notice. And it can happen in ways we never expect.



In September, the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, Bishop in Jerusalem, had his residence permit revoked by the Israeli government. As a Palestinian, the Bishop is required to renew this permit annually so he can live in Jerusalem at the Cathedral.

In the intervening 6 months, a wide range of religious and secular dignitaries have expressed concern to the immigration authorities. But the Diocese has received no response to its requests for a hearing. By providing no response, the Israelis are denying a religious leader the freedom to minister to his congregations. In the cradle of the three Abrahamic faiths, this is particularly egregious. Every non-Israeli clergy in Israel can apparently be denied the freedom to travel without appeal.

AFEDJ stands as a steadfast friend to the Bishop and his

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AFEDJ's Missioners in the Los Angeles area got together at the end of February for a day of information exchange and updates on the situation in the Diocese of Jerusalem. They became familiar with the tools available to share their passion for the important work of the Diocese. Want to join? Visit our website at www.afedj.org and click on Missioners or contact David Smith, Chair of Missioners at

mission to all in the Holy Land. We support his ministry and seek your support as well so that the power of Christian witness to reconciliation may live, thrive and flourish for the sake of all people.

- Phoebe Griswold, President
- Anne Lynn, Executive Director

davidsmith927@gmail.com. He's eager to hear from you.

Birzeit Home for the Elderly will provide real comfort



Construction has begun on St. Peter's Home for the Elderly. The bottom floor seen here, is a community center and is in use. The next two floors will house the needy and depend on your help.

Mrs. K is in her mid-80's - she's not sure of her exact age. She shares two spare rooms with her developmentally delayed daughter. They're pictured at the top of this page. Her daughter is able to get some occasional part time work as a cleaning woman in the local school, but the pay is poor - less than \$300 a month. It's all they have.

There are no pensions, no hope for more income. As Mrs. K becomes more frail, she wonders what will become of her and who will take care of her daughter if she is no longer there for her.

The Rev. Hanna Dalleh, priest at St. Andrew's parish in Ramallah and also St. Peter's in Birzeit, ministers to Mrs. K and many others like her. Their stories break his heart. He's brought his congregation together to pool funds to buy food for Mrs. K and many others who have no means of support. Fr. Hanna calls on each elderly parishioner, bringing a few minutes of joy into their lives as well as nutrition.

Their families have left, seeking a better life in another country. Unwilling or unable to face the daunting changes in language and lifestyle, many of the elderly opt to stay behind in the community they know and love. But the tragic result is a large number of failing, frail elderly with no one to care for them.

St. Peter's Home for the Elderly is under construction in Birzeit, a Diocesan project to provide shelter and a sense of security and hope to 16 of Fr. Hanna's seniors. It's pictured to the left above. Your gifts can help create a long term solution to this sad situation. Please help us get this facility completed so Mrs. K and her daughter, and others like her, can live with dignity and peace of mind. Naming opportunities exist for capital gifts, a permanent way to be remembered in love.

Needs

Please consider making a gift online at www.afedj.org for any of these important needs. It's quick, easy and secure. Recurring gifts, those designated for a particular institution or need, gifts in memory or in honor of a loved one are also easily done. Each gift matters and those we serve will be deeply grateful.

Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children in East Jerusalem received an important gift in December to support its new music program for disabled children. Thank you! It will cover the cost of the instruments, but not the music teachers' salaries. Please consider making a gift, which brings the opportunity for creative expression to children with serious impairments.

The Penman Clinic in Zebabdeh is the only medical facility serving 11 rural villages in the northern West Bank. They need help funding a nurse's salary, who is the primary care giver at this vital clinic. Please consider a gift of \$175 which will cover the salary for a week. Zebabdeh is a growing and vibrant parish which would appreciate your prayers and support.

The Bishop's School for Boys in Amman has undergone an amazing revitalization in the last year. This includes both physical space and management oversight. Scholarship aid is badly needed to keep children with excellent potential in school. Help the Diocese continue to strengthen this institution to give more boys a strong start.



Events and Activities

Many parishes are offering Lenten series over the next few weeks. A number of them appropriately focus on the Holy Land as we collectively walk toward Jerusalem in Jesus' footsteps. Send us your program and we'll tell others about it.

Washington D.C. area

Church of the Redeemer in Bethesda MD features a different speaker each Sunday at 9:15 a.m. Ambassador Philip Wilcox talks about the history of the Holy Land this Sunday, March 13. The Palestine/Israel Advocacy Group of the National Cathedral sponsors a series of speakers including Dr. Denise Hopkins, Professor at Wesley Seminary, speaking on peace and justice issues on Saturday, April 2 at the Cathedral's Perry Auditorium at 2 p.m.

National

Interested in Peace and Justice? Join Episcopal Peace Fellowship at www.epfnational.org or epfnational@ameritech.net. An Episcopal Peace and Justice network is also being established which focuses on the Holy Land. Contact Cotton Fite at cotton.fite@sbcglobal.net for more information and to sign up.

Trips

May 5 - May 18 St. George's College will follow the ministry of St. Paul in Turkey. More information at www.sgcjerusalem.org.

June 4 - 18, Sabeel/Colorado will host a fact finding trip which includes Jerusalem, Nablus, Nazareth and Qumran. The focus is peace and justice and more information is available at www.fosna.org.

July 19 - August 1 join a group from the Diocese of New York for a pilgrimage which includes Jerusalem and the Galilee plus an optional pre-trip visit to Petra and Mt. Nebo in Jordan. Contact deborahdresser@gmail.com for more information.

September 8 - 19, St. George's College will offer a look at Abraham, Yesterday and Today. Couldn't be more relevant right now. More information at www.sgcjerusalem.org.

October 5 - 18 Dr. Pauline Coffman in Chicago will host a tour of Syria and Lebanon which includes Beirut, Aleppo, Damascus and Tyre. The on the ground situation is fluid, so check with Dr. Coffman at p.coffman@sbcglobal.net.



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 www.afedj.org to learn about or contribute to any of the important work done in the region.