

Friends of the Lazarus Home for Girls Newsletter

Christmas 2008

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

A letter from the Chair of Trustees

AGM November 2008

I would like to begin this report by saying how sorry we all were to hear that, sadly, Alice Sahar recently died. Our love and prayers are with Samar and the rest of the family at this time. Alice was a wonderful Christian who knew her Lord and, we can be assured that she is now safely in His loving arms.

I have recently seen photographs of the new building, which were taken earlier this month. One of them shows a Mustard Plant growing just outside the entrance, and my mind went to the words of Jesus as recorded in Matthew's Gospel. The disciples were becoming a little downhearted with their ministry and asked Jesus why more things weren't happening. Jesus went on to tell them that it was because of their lack of faith. He then went on to say to them 'if you have faith as small as a mustard seed ... nothing will be impossible for you.'

Isn't that the story of our charity? All along, we have had faith and trust that the Lord would complete what He started - and the building is nearly finished! Praise God! It seems that in that photograph, the Lord is saying to us 'See what faith can do!'

Since our last AGM, the building work has been progressing well; thanks to the hard work and diligence of our Architect, Ibrahim. However, we still have much to do - as we will hear soon. Meanwhile, what we will hear today has only been possible through the faith, trust and support of many people. Our treasurer will be telling us about the amazing generosity of so many. It is to everyone that I would like to record my thanks on behalf of the Trustees and Committee members.

The Lord has brought us this far and I know He will take us further. We would therefore value your continuing prayers as we seek to complete the work, which has begun.

PS: I have just returned from the Holy Land where I witnessed the arrival of latest girl to come into the fold of the Lazarus Home. The girl is about 2 years of age. She was abandoned onto the streets, covered in bruises and her milk teeth had been knocked out. A beautiful innocent baby girl, a girl who truly symbolises the reason and need for the new home. I always recall Matthew 25-40 NAS ('I was hungry; did you feed Me? I was naked; did you clothe Me? I was sick: did you care for Me? For if you did... you did it for Me).

Words that ring so true to the work the Lord has laid onto all our hearts.

God Bless you all.

Kevin Dunne Chair of Trustees

Progress report: on the construction of the New Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany

November 2008

Unless the Lord builds the house its labours build in vain.

Following my October 2008 visit to the new Lazarus Home for Girls, which has now been constructed, I would like to reflect what has transpired over the last 17 months.

How the Lord has blessed and crowned all our efforts in His Name.

You may recall it was only May 2007 when I was privileged to witness the breaking of the ground with our appointed architect Ibrahim Younan. From the excavation of over 4000 cubic metres of rock and earth in order to start construction of the basement and ground floor, to the stage when my February 2008 visit witnessed this work being completed.

In April 2008 the construction of the first floor was completed. At this point in time the charity was under the assumption that work would have to come to a standstill until further funds become available.

Wow, what an amazing heavenly Father we all have His great outpouring of faithfulness allowed the project to proceed and, to date the construction of the second and third floors has now been completed - Praise the Lord.

Funding has also become available to commence the pointing of the external stonework, the waterproofing of the roof and the installing of some of the windows to the lower floors.

You may recall in the summer 2008 newsletter that the charity has made a funding application for assistance in fitting out part of the ground floor to formulate a two-room clinic to provide health care for the local population. At the present time the application is still live and the charity is still awaiting a decision.

It has now been agreed by the trustees the main priority is to vacate the existing (4 rented apartments), which presently house the girls and staff. The architect's instruction is now to concentrate on providing costings for the partial fitting out of the ground floor, and the fully fitting out of the first and second floor to accommodate the present number of girls and staff.

The other floors will be put on hold until funds become available.

It is estimated the cost of this work will be in the region of £450,000 depending on the rate of exchange (at the time of processing.)

During my October 2008 visit I attended a meeting with our architect and a representative of the Islamic Bank, to discuss the availability of funding for fixtures and fittings, these items range from kitchen utensils electrical equipment soft furnishing and furniture to name but a few, the cost will be between \$130,000 to \$180,000 An application has now been made via our architect, funds are available and the charities application has a 95% chance of success. Prayers Please.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of personally thanking each and every one of you for your prayers and support.

Thanks be to God
Alan Anderson

Treasurer's Report

The charity has experienced what can only be described as an amazing year.

International payments forwarded for the construction of the new home totalled £251,000.00 Praise the Lord. This vast amount was raised from donations, grants and on going fund raising events. A very big 'Thank You' to you all, for your constant support and the wonderful letters, which tell of your fundraising efforts. (Due to the data protection act I am not at liberty to release this information, but if you wish to have a mention in our newsletters, drop me a line giving the charity permission to release your data and I will only be to please to include you in the next edition.)

Ongoing quarterly International payments of £3000.00 from the charities sponsorship scheme are forwarded out to the home for the up-keep of the girls.

'Well Done' to Floyd Evans, Senior Doctors Referral Instructor Concordia Leisure Centre Cramlington, Northumberland, who raised £3,500.00 when he donned the charity's tee shirt and ran the Great North Run's 13.1 mile race. Even after a fall, Floyd mastered on to complete the run in 1 hour, 47 minutes. We all wish to extend to you, Floyd, our profound gratitude for all that you have achieved in the charities name. Thank you .

Finally, just to reiterate: every donation received goes to the children; the trustees meet their own personal expenses and the charity's running costs.

Love in Jesus
Shirley Anderson: Hon. Treasurer.

Prayers from Revd David Attfield

Prayers for the Homes and for peace in the Holy Land. They can be used as biddings in Church Services; for expansion into extemporary prayer; and as themes for meditation.

Mondays Give thanks for the life and work of Alice and the founding of the home. Pray for guidance in the choice of a new head of the Jeel Al Amal Boys' Home; for the helpers and teachers at the school; for the safety of the boys and their hopes of a better future.

Tuesdays Pray for the Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany; for Samar and the housemothers; for the safety of the girls and their hopes of a better future; for those girls, infants and staff who have been rejected by their families. For girls who are sick; for freedom of access to healthcare for the local population. For our sponsorship system and other fundraising efforts in local churches and communities.

Wednesdays For the future of the Lazarus Home; for successful fundraising for the building works and for its completion. Give thanks for the near completion of the new building for The

Lazarus Home. Pray that funds will become available to fit out the building. Pray too that grants will be forthcoming for the proposed Medical Centre.

Thursdays For the peace witness of Samar and their Jewish women friends, for the wider reconciliation of Jews, Christians and Moslems in the Holy Land, in this country and in the USA.

Fridays for lasting peace and justice in Israel, the Gaza strip, the Palestinian Territories and the Lebanon; for Tony Blair as he tries to mediate in difficult situations.

Saturdays For the protection of Israel from suicide bombers; for the overcoming of problems caused by the wall; for the Gaza strip and help to the people isolated there, without medical care; for reconciliation between Hamas and Fatah; for talks with Israel about the way forward as the year ends.

– David Attfield