

FRIENDS OF THE LAZARUS HOME FOR GIRLS

Newsletter October 2006

Letter from the Chairman

Once again, it is my privilege to write to all our friends and supporters to say a big 'Thank You' for your continuing prayers and support for our charity. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an update regarding the proposed building work (which is progressing slowly but surely!).

However, one area where we are experiencing difficulty is in the area of finances. It would appear that Palestinian Banks are not able to process foreign cheques at present due to the political situation. This has meant that a number of attempted transfers of money from the charity have been returned. We are now looking at the use of international money transfers, which will inevitably cost more. Your prayers about this issue would be appreciated. Another area of financial concern has been over some donations received. Some folks (including myself!) have been given money for the charity (maybe from a talk) and have given us a personal cheque for the amount collected. In preparing our accounts for the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, our accountant has spotted this and advised that, in order to be in line with the Charity Commission rules and regulations, all moneys received should be paid directly into our charity account; thus assuring that all funds were traceable and accountable. Therefore, any moneys received should be paid directly into our account and the receipt stub sent to the treasurer who will then issue an official receipt from the charity. Thanks for your help and understanding about this.

We are all caught up in the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, especially in the Holy Land. Inevitably, many are suffering in so many ways. Happily I can tell you that the work amongst the girls continues with the abundant outpouring of love and care which characterizes the ministry of Samar and her team. Those of us who were there earlier this year can bear testimony to that.

Finally, details of our Annual General Meeting are given in this newsletter. I look forward to meeting you then.

God Bless you all,
Revd Kevin Dunne, Chair of Trustees

Treasurer's Report

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am delighted to inform you all that the building balance now stands at £132,500.00. Praise the Lord Building fundraising activities such as the recent abseil from the Malmaison Hotel Quayside Ncle undertaken by Alan Anderson, trustee, Jean Stothard and John Priestly boosted the isolated building fund by £15,000.00; General Funds stand at £24,231.22. Our grateful thanks are sent to all who assisted the charity in making this event such a success.

Due to the political situation out in Palestine, difficulties have been experienced in the transferring of funds; Samar's assistance in these matters will soon see the problems resolved.

Gift Aid: if you are in a position to gift aid your donations and have not already completed our gift aid declaration form, please contact me and I will be happy to send one out to you. The importance of this scheme is allowing our charity to claim over £4000.00 in financial year 2005-2006.

As you will read in Alan Anderson's report, we are in the process of raising funds for phase four of the new home. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

May I thank you for your continuous support and prayers.

Shirley Anderson
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Update on the Construction of the Home

We have now received from our architect in Jerusalem the final drawing and budget costings for the construction of the new four-storey home for girls. The new home will provide accommodation for a minimum of 50 girls and staff. As well as accommodation included in the plans is play zones, kindergarten, skill workshop, medical/treatment centre. The architect has provided an overall budget cost for the project, which has been divided into six phases. The trustees and committee has approved for the first three phases of work to commence, which would consist of municipal approval, drawing specification and bill of quantities, levelling of the land, and the construction of a three-meter high perimeter wall around the site. The fourth phase would consist of the skeleton work of the four-storey building. To achieve this we would require in excess of £200,000.00.

The first three phases will commence when the treasurer has in place all the legal requirements and documentation to satisfy the accountant and charity commission. On completion of this the signed contract and funds for the first three phases will be forwarded out to Jerusalem. We will then be in a position to agree a commencement date.

Ongoing updates will be on this site and in the next newsletter.

Many Christian Greetings in Our Lord Jesus Christ's Name
Alan Anderson, Trustee

Latest News from the Home

Samar has now taken in more girls, boosting the figures to over 40. As you can see, the new home is greatly needed. Samar is still providing a safe haven through very difficult times in protecting these girls from further abuse. Some of the older girls are now being taught seamstress skills and Samar has now obtained a gift of four industrial sewing machines. The girls are now producing such items as pillow cases, sheets, aprons, which will be sold at the local market. The funds raised will go towards daily expenses. Charlie's bakery is still providing fresh bread for the children and other institutes in the area, as well as generating a monthly income for the home. Samar would like to send to each and every one of you her love and profound gratitude for your support and prayers.