

Friends of the Lazarus Home for Girls

Summer 2007 Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Once again, it gives me a great personal pleasure to say 'Thank You' for all our friends, supporters and praying partners for the continuing help and support you give to our charity.

There have been lots of developments since our last newsletter.

First of all, we have welcomed two new members on to our management committee. They are:

- Revd. David Attfield, who has agreed to be our Prayer Secretary, and
- John Gregory, who has kindly agreed to be our Sponsorship Secretary.

In welcoming our two new members, we say 'Thank You' to Kath Harwood for her support on the committee. Secondly, in this edition of the newsletter you will find a report following a visit to the Home by Alan Anderson (one of our trustees), and John (mentioned above). Their report is very positive.

A recent visit by a group from McCabe Pilgrimages recently enjoyed a memorable day at both the Boys Home and the Girls Home. These visits are so important and give Samar and Alice and their staff huge encouragement.

Finally, just to say that I am leading a Pilgrimage to The Holy Land in November 2008, based in Jerusalem and Tiberias. We will of course be spending some time at the Home. Anyone who would like more information should contact me, via the address at the foot of the page.

Thanks again for all you do.

God Bless.

– Kevin Dunne, Chair

PROGRESS REPORT

Construction of the new Lazarus Home for Girls

I am delighted to inform all our supporters, work commenced on site in May 2007. This work involved the clearing of the land, which is situated on a 25-degree slope. In the process of levelling the land, 4000 cubic metres of rock and earth had to be excavated and removed from the site. This programme of work has now been completed.

In his latest report dated 21 August 2007, our appointed architect emailed photographic evidence that Phase 3 forming of the basement area and ground floor concrete slab up to ground level is nearing completion.

Photographs of this progress can be viewed here. I have made arrangements to visit our architect in mid October 2007 where the next phase of the upper floors (5 in total) will be programmed as and when funds become available. It is a miracle indeed to see the Lord raising this building from the ground. 'Praise the Lord.' May I once again take this opportunity of thanking you for your support and prayers.

– Alan Anderson, Vice-Chair/building coordinator

SPONSORSHIP NEWS

You may have been informed by our Chairman, the Rev. Kevin Dunne, of my being the new incumbent Sponsorship Secretary for The Friends of the Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany.

It is only right for me to give you some background details about myself in an attempt to make this transition smoother. My name is John Gregory, I have been appointed to continue the work Kath Harwood did so effectively for our charity for a number of years. As the saying goes, Kath will be a 'hard act' to follow, having put so much of herself into the work, for which I thank her.

Like Kath, I am a teacher by profession, working in a Northumberland middle school. Therefore, not surprisingly, the main focus of my attention is the education and well being of all the children in our care. However, my former training was in the construction industry, whereas Alan, our vice-chair and building coordinator, still holds a key position as Senior projects Construction Manager for a large corporation. I also have a keen interest in supporting Alan with the new building. In May we were both fortunate enough to be in Palestine to see the commencement of construction.

What an exciting time to be a part of this very worthwhile cause, to which you kindly donate your money and I have no doubt, your prayers, thank you. You are making an enormous difference to the lives of all those for whom we care. This truly is the practical manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

As you are aware, we continue to carry the day-to-day expenses and overheads of the charity ourselves, thereby leaving all the money you contribute to do the work we feel you want it to do, which is benefit the children. I don't know of any other charity that does this!

It is easy for us to get carried away with excitement as we see the building work progress. However, vitally important is the need for us all to keep our sights set on our primary purpose, that of caring for the children so desperately in need of our love, prayers and practical help.

– John Gregory, Sponsorship Secretary

Treasurers Report

As you will have read in Alan Anderson's report we are in the process of raising funds for phases 4 and 5 of the new building. Although we have a full schedule of fundraising events planned until 2008, we still have a long way to go in the procurement of this much needed home. Any donations would be gratefully received to further the Lord's work out in His holy land.

Our profound gratitude goes to all who undertook the planned abseil from the Malmaison Hotel Quayside Newcastle Upon Tyne.

Love in Jesus.
– Shirley Anderson

PRAYERS FROM THE 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 For 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 For the Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany; for Samar and the house mothers; for the safety of the girls and their hopes of a better future; for those girls and staff who have been rejected by their families; for success in our fundraising for the Home.

Wednesdays For the future of the Lazarus Home; for the successful completion of the new building; for the order of Sisters to which Samar belongs, that it may take responsibility for the Home and the welfare of the girls.

Thursdays For the peace witness of Alice and 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 US.

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 Hamas and Fatah, as they try to lead the Palestinian people; for talks with Israel about the way forward.

– David Attfield