

Friends of the Lazarus Home for Girls

Summer 2008 Newsletter

A Letter from the Chair of Trustees

Once again, may I personally thank you all for your prayers and support for our charity.

I am delighted to report that the building work is progressing well, Praise the Lord! The basement, ground, first and second floors are now completed and work is progressing on third and final floor.

We are fast running out of funds but are confident that the Lord, having brought us this far, will enable us to complete the project. Already we are in talks with two major sponsors who, it seems, will pay for the equipping and fitting out of a much-needed clinic at ground floor level, and we have another promise of possible funding for a complete floor!

Having said all this, we desperately need new sponsors to help us meet day-to-day costs for feeding and educating the girls. We have promised to send out a monthly equivalent of £1,000, and currently we are struggling to achieve this (we are required under charity laws to keep the building funds separate). Every penny we raise goes directly to the Lazarus Home for Girls. All expenses and running costs are met by the Trustees.

Please pray for us as we urgently seek to complete the project. If you can provide us with further financial help, either by sponsoring on a monthly basis, or a one-off donation towards the building (or both!), we would love to hear from you.

Meanwhile we would appreciate your continuing prayers.

God Bless.

Kevin Dunne – Chair

News from the Home

Our grateful thanks go to McCabe Travel who organised this summer event. Volunteer teachers spent the summer with the children at the homes in Bethany.

Here is an extract from one of their reports:

I am sure Panna and Hafsa will write more, but things here are also going really well.

Panna and Hafsa are doing daily arts sessions with them and have made huge 3D

name effects, glass painting, clay modelling and flower making. They have also made band groups with everyone involved doing recorders, drums and singing.

We have already been on a trip to the Bell Garden in Jerusalem for a day; Ramallah swimming pool and we are planning on Bethlehem for this Friday.

Each trip is on a Friday (mainly) but everyone has been happy to spend their free time doing this. We have had a lot of contact with Samar, who has invited us to dinner several times, and makes lunch for Hafsa and Panna every day.

She is a marvel and an inspiration and works every minute for the kids.

The girls have weekly counselling type sessions at a local centre.

Sponsorship News

Keep ahead of all the news at the Lazarus home by joining our sponsorship scheme. On joining the scheme, you will automatically receive our pack with all the latest news and periodic updates on the achievements of the girls.

Funds raised from the scheme assist the charity in sending out a quarterly International Standing Order of £3000.00 towards the food, clothing, and educational and medical fees.

There is no stipulation in the giving of funds. That is your decision: you can either give monthly, half yearly or annually. You can give as an individual or as a group, the choice is yours.

For further information please contact us.

Construction Report

By the time you will receive this Summer 2008 issue, the shell of the third and final floor will be completed. This will include the retaining wall to the rear of the home, which is over 10m high. You may recall that work commenced in May 2007 and the completion of the shell, with your prayers and financial help, has only taken 15 months to achieve – Praise the Lord.

I will be visiting the new home and our appointed architect early October 2008 to establish the cost of the fitting out of the interior in order to relocate Samar and girls into the new home. However, this will all determined by the financial situation of the charity. Our priorities are the fitting out of the first and second floors, which will consist of bedroom accommodation and dining facilities for the staff and children. The charity has now applied to a major charity for a grant for the fitting out of two clinics, one paediatric and one gynaecologic, which will be situated on the ground floor of the new building. These clinics will be available to the local community in Bethany. An award from Kenda was jointly awarded to the Friends and Samar.

Alan Anderson – Vice chair/Building Coordinator

Prayers

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 or who come from traumatic backgrounds; 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 their completion; for the order of Sisters to which Samar belongs, that it may take responsibility for the Home and the welfare of the girls. And that it may be possible to finance and provide a medical centre for the community, without distraction or delay to the building work.

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

– Revd David Attfield