

Friends of the Lazarus Home for Girls Newsletter

Summer 2009

A letter from the Chair of Trustees

Dear Friends,

It was a huge privilege for Alan (our vice-chair) and I, together with Alistair McCabe of McCabe Pilgrimages, to visit the home in June. We were there primarily to meet with the architect and to look at grant funding. You will find Alan's update report elsewhere in this newsletter.

The good folks of Bethany need more than ever our prayers at this time of uncertainty; but, as always, we found Samar to be very positive and full of ideas! Seeing the building was a joy but we were acutely aware of the work, which needs to be one to complete the project. When we receive estimates for completion, we hope we will be in a position to proceed as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we value your prayers and support for our Charity.

Once again may I, on behalf of the trustees and management committee, thank you for all you have done and given to enable us to come this far.

God Bless.

Kevin Dunne
Chair of Trustees

Construction Report

Following my visit with our chair Kevin Dunne in June 2009: as always, it was good to actually witness the progress that had been achieved since my last visit, the completion of all the pointing to external walls and the waterproofing of the roof, which has now made the building watertight.

However, due to the lack of financial funds at this point in time further construction work has now been put on hold until funds become available. As I have mentioned previously, the next stage of construction is the installation of all the external doors and window frames. Although the charity has to date has raised 50% of the total cost, it is not frugal to place an order until the total finance has been raised, as this would achieve the best positive value. My main purpose of my visit in June was to introduce our chair Kevin Dunne and Alistair McCabe of McCabe Pilgrimages to the charity's appointed architect Ibrahim Younan and to visit the new home to witness the charity's progress to date. As you are aware, McCabe Educational Trust and McCabe Pilgrimages have in the past contributed to the furtherment of the construction work and have indicated that they would like to assist the charity in 2009-2010. Kevin and I will be attending a meeting with McCabe Trust in early September 2009 to discuss a way forward.

During our visit, Ibrahim arranged a meeting with Dr Jawad Najji, the advisor to the Prime Minister for Arab and Islamic Funds Affairs and his staff. The meeting was arranged to further the charities grant application for the supplying of domestic appliances and household equipment including play items for the children. This grant would evaluate from \$180.000 to \$200.000. Our treasurer has now compiled the necessary documentation and forwarded out to Ibrahim in Jerusalem.

Clinic Report

I thought I would like to share with you all this recent email I received from Marta giving a update on what is happening with regards to the clinic... as the funds are not available to finish the building work in the new home this step has been taken as a temporary measure in order to take advantage of the grants and ministry of Health involvement in the long term opportunities for the clinics.

Dear Alan,

How are you? Hope you are fine. I heard from Samar, when you had already left, that you have passed by Bethany.

I wanted to inform you about the working progress of the clinic in Bethany.

Since the building was not ready yet, we have rented an apartment; Samar is paying and will continue to pay till the new building is ready. The BMCC clinic has started for 3 months and is working very well. We have just finished the women-training course with a great success, in partnership with the Ministry of Health Doctors.

Since the building is facing the Ministry of Health, and since we needed prior permission to install the clinic from the Ministry itself, we partnered with the Ministry of Health, i.e. the clinic is run by the Ministry of Health. This will grant the running costs (electricity and water) from August 2009. The Ministry of Health, Samar and I (as Kenda) signed an agreement with the Minister of Health in person, in which we said the Ground floor will be used as clinic for the children and women of Bethany, when ready, until then she will sustain the rent costs of the rented apartment.

Marco had written you a letter around September, informing you about the clinic projects progresses.

I have too informed lawyer Jadon about the steps taken with the Ministry of Health and asked for advice.

Living and working here daily, with the problems of continuous changes in the West Bank. The Ministry of health is granting the cost of doctors, the sustainability of the clinic in the long run and of course helps those who need more help, since it covers people who have no insurance (that they do not pay). Therefore the poorest and most needy go to our clinic.

Thank you
Best Regards

Marta Jamila Berardi
Kenda local representative
Home Lazarus for Girls volunteer.

Sponsorship News

You may recall the words of our chair's visit to the home in November 2008. We quote: "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 3 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."

It gives me great pleasure to bring to this online edition of our newsletter a photograph taken in June 2009 of Sojod, who is about three years of age... as you will see from the photograph, Sojod is now a very happy little girl who has settled into a caring and loving home. It is anticipated Sojod will be starting kindergarten at the start of the new academic year September 2009. It is through your continued generosity that charity is in the position to forward out to the home quarterly International Standing Order of £3,000.00 towards the food, clothing, and educational and medical fees and be there for children like Sojod through no fault of their own find themselves in great need. If you feel you would like to keep ahead of all the news at the Lazarus home by joining our sponsorship scheme I have outlined some of the questions you may raise.



On joining the scheme, you will automatically receive our pack with all the latest news and periodic updates on the achievements of the girls.

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.

Every donation received goes to the children the charities trustees pay their own expenses and the charities running costs so you can be assured your donations do make a difference to these tender young lives.

Treasurers Report

During this difficult climate of uncertainty your continued support and charitable giving overwhelms the charities trustees. To date, the building fund has reached £55,000.00. This amount does not include the grant of £25,000, which is isolated for the clinic, and the quarterly £3,000.00 funds from the sponsorship scheme for the benefit of the children. We all extend to you our deepest gratitude, as without your help we would not be able to assist Samar and the girls.

Role of Honour

80th Birthday Celebrations raise £1000+ for the building fund

Our profound gratitude goes to the **Eileen Hutchinson** who graciously made donation in lieu of her 80th birthday celebrations to the building fund which, with the gift aid donations, will

top the £10,00.00 mark. Eileen, who lives in the Lake District, is an ardent support and has over time given most generously to the charity.

Congratulations go to **St Paul's Church Winlaton**, who raised £150.00 from their coffee morning. Well done to all who achieved this wonderful amount in aid of the building fund.

Our grateful thanks are extended to **Joyce and Dorothy Sisterson** who withstood the elements at Seaton Sluice Harbour Day to raise funds for the charity. Joyce and Dorothy are always ready and willing to participate in any activity the charity hosts in raising funds. Two quite unassuming ladies who really deserve a 'pat on their back' for all their good works. Well Done Girls: we really appreciate all that you do in the charities name.

Dates for your diary

8 to 10 September 2009 sees Philip Welsh competing in the Coast to Coast Ride from Whitehaven in Cumbria, finishing at Tynemouth North Tyneside, covering a distance of approx 80 miles in aid of the building fund. Anyone wishing to raise sponsorship funds please make contact with the treasurer on 0191 2376798, who will supply you with a sponsorship form by return.

19 September 2009 Coffee Morning, Parish Centre, Chester Le Street, County Durham. 10am–2pm. In aid of the building fund. Coffee Cakes light refreshments bric a brac stall. All Welcome

1 November 2009 Friends of Lazarus Home for Girls AGM. 3.00pm at The Chapel at Sherburn Hospital, Sherburn House, Durham DH1 2SE.

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 Jeel Al Amal Boys' Home. Pray for the helpers and teachers at the school; for the safety of the boys and their hopes for the future.

Tuesdays Pray for the Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany; for Samar and the housemothers; give thanks for Samar's organising an holiday for the girls in Italy and for her being able to finance this. We pray for the safety and enjoyment of the girls, before they move into the new home.

Wednesdays Give thanks for the new building for The Lazarus Home. Pray for its completion, for its fitting and furnishing. Pray for the settlement of the girls in their new quarters. We thank God for the generosity of McCabe Travel; we are also grateful for the willingness of the West Bank authority to supply funding. Pray too that grants will be forthcoming for the proposed Medical Centre.

Thursdays For the peace witness of Samar and her 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; we also ask for a generous response to President Obama's new approach.

Saturdays Pray for the overcoming of problems caused by the wall and its extension; and for concerns over the fresh Jewish settlements in the West Bank. We also pray for the new Prime Minister of Israel and for his response to international pressures for peace.

- David Attfield