



Home for Girls

Friends of the Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany™

Charity's Working Name: Lazarus Home For Girls™ Registered Charity N0-1075024

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2016 WISHING YOU A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL NEW YEAR

A letter of reflection from the Chair of Trustees

*For we live by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7 NIV*

Our spiritual journey is inspiring us all to be lead by the will of God where we listen to God with the ears of the heart. As I write this letter, Advent is fast approaching we rejoice in the promise of Christ's birth, and for the time when Christ will come again.

2016 has seen much transformation, not only in the construction of the new home, but also in the organisation, administration and governmental advancement with the Palestinian Social Services Department.

As you will read further on in the treasurer's report, changes are benefiting our charity status both here in the UK and out in Palestine. This is assisting us in our endeavours to relocate the girls into the new home, with its projects of the clinics and kindergarten. The benefits to the Lazarus girls and local community will be life changing.

It is only through the blessings, guidance and faithfulness of the Lord's unfailing love and devotion that we have been able to take great strides forward. Through him, we are uniting His army of 'Friends' whose prayers and fantastic financial support through donations sponsorship and grants is fulfilling this much needed home for His Children. This Christmas tide may you all be filled with the love of the one who is worthy of all our praise, our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ - Alan Anderson



Main entrance to home

Construction Report

"Unless the Lord builds the House its Labourers build in Vain" Psalm 127.1 niv

Due to your generous donations and further funding from UK Registered Charity Interpal (Helping Palestinians in Need) we have now achieved and completed the following work as depicted in attached photograph.

- Completion of the retaining wall and paving to form disabled ramp for ease of access to the main ground floor entrance.
- Construction of new pathways and paved area leading from main front gates up to the entrance of the new home have now been completed.
- The girls' outdoor play area paving slabs have now been laid to the side and rear forming hard standing allowing landscaping to the perimeters and rear retaining wall. As the retaining wall is in access of 10metres in height it is envisaged soft landscaping will at a later date be utilised for the growing fruit vines and shrub.
- Photographs depict the completion of the ceramic wall tiling above all the work surfaces in the kitchen area.
- As required by the Palestinian Social Services, the internal and external CCTV system has now been installed for added security and the protection for the girls.
- To prevent the ingress of water to the undeveloped second and third floor it has been necessary to seal off approx 34 windows until further funds become available to complete the next stage of construction.
- All external signage is now complete.

Outstanding is the installation of the heating pumps to service the completed central heating system which is already installed. To necessitate a constant supply of water we need to complete the installation of a water pump to recently completed external water well.

Charity's new Patron is announced

The "Friends" are delighted to announce the appointment of Bishop Dr. Munib A. Younan as a Patron to the charity.

Dr. Munib A. Younan is the Bishop of E:CJHL President of The Lutheran World Federation [The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land - ELCJHL]. His grace is also a leader of the Fellowship of Middle East Evangelical Churches. Bishop Younan is Honorary President of the Middle East Council of Churches that is comprised of The Orthodox, Catholic and Evangelical Churches. He has served the last 7 years as one of its Presidents representing the Evangelical Family. His grace is an accomplished author of "Witnessing for Peace from Jerusalem to the Whole World," and "Our Shared Witness", as well as a translator of the "Augsburg Confession which is the main doctrinal teaching of the Lutheran Church.

He is an authority on Christian Muslim Dialogue an authority on Jewish Christian Muslim Dialogue, a member of the Royal Prize Committee for The International Week of Harmony - Jordan and a prolific speaker on Ecumenism, interfaith and justice issues, and an advocate of Arab Christian witness and presence in the Middle East.



From left to right Bishop Dr Younan with Pope Francis.

"Friends" new local Palestinian committee is announced.

Following ongoing negotiations with the Palestinian Ministry of Interiors and the Social Services to obtain the necessary documentation for the operation of the home, it has been requested that the formation of a new local committee accountable to the Palestinian Government is created. This will be for the running and welfare of the home and will have to be presented, vetted and approved by the authorities prior to the home becoming operational. Although this committee will locally be held accountable the overall responsibility and accountability will be directed from the "Friends" through their local trustee Ibrahim A. Younan.

The committee members up for approval are as follows:

- "Friends" trustee and local representative.
- Academic Vice Director of Bethlehem University
- Chief Executive Officer of the Augusta Victoria Hospital
- Principal of Secondary School
- Palestinian Trader and Investor
- Chief Executor of a Tourism Agency
- Local Lawyer
- Palestinian Investor

The above list of proposed committee has verbally been approved by the authorities with the documentation now being processed and will be forwarded out in due course.

Financial Report

Interpal

Within my remit as treasurer I have prepared and successfully secured a further grant from Interpal as depicted in the construction report. Our profound gratitude is extended to the Interpal trustees for their support in our partnership and the procurement of this much needed home.

Thanks to your most fantastic and generous donations and fundraising were able to forward out the necessary International payments to further the construction work.



I can confirm the charity has received the final payment from the legacy of our late sister in Christ Joan Boulden and, as her personal request; the total legacy has been fully used in the furtherance of the construction work.

CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) Update. As you will have read it was announced the charity has been granted new registration and has become a

CIO (charitable incorporated organisation) in August 2015. The new registration had been left dormant until negotiations with the Charity Commission were complete on the transfer of the assets from the old charity to the new. It was anticipated the new CIO and the present charity could work side by side but after lengthy discussions with the Charity Commission we have been advised that the two have to be amalgamated. I am therefore on the trustee's behalf working under the guidance of the charity commission and our ACCA accountant Ronald Joyce in order to complete the transfer. This transfer does not modify any of the aims of the organisation it was simply completed to bring the charity up to date with appropriate governance so as to protect and support the charity in the future and in the work that it has set out to achieve. This will not affect any of the work of the organisation and we will still endeavour to update our supporters on all matters affecting the charity.

Your ongoing support is very much appreciated and helps us immeasurably in achieving a safe place for the girls who will be in our care to live, learn and develop as young people in times of great need.

Annual Visit to the new home & sponsorship news:- It was anticipated the trustees would make an update visit to the home during late spring but unfortunately due to our chairman undergoing major surgery and a lengthy recovery period the trip was put on hold. I am pleased to confirm Alan is making a slow but steady recovery with his focus on a future trip, however, Ibrahim (our trustee) – has been coordinating and reporting all updates with the chair and trustees on the progress of the girls return once the statutory documentation is verified. The charity will then be in a position to facilitate the appointment of suitably qualified staff to run the home whilst also applying for further grants for running costs.

Farewell to Revd David Afffield

It with great sadness Revd David informed the board of trustees of his forthcoming 2016 resignation as a trustee of the "Friends". I quote from David's email 'Owing to my age (I shall be 85 next October). I want to tell you now that at the next AGM I shall not be standing for re-election as a Trustee.' Revd David has been inspirational in prayers and support for several years in our quest to procure this much needed home. We extend to Revd David and his wife Janet our best wishes for their future and we look forward to keeping in touch with all the updates.

In Christ.
Alan Anderson
Chair of Trustees



Steps up to rear play area



Paving to play area



Paving to rear play area and retaining wall



Disabled ramp to main entrance



CCTV

Role of Honour

- St Mary's Ewell
- Lanchester Church Wives
 - St Peters Cramlington
- Dorothy & Joyce Sisterson
 - Helen Lockhart
 - Revd Dorothy Hankey
 - Blyth CVA
 - L.A. Parker
 - C. & M. May
 - K. Smith
- Rotary Club Ashington

The trustees would also extend to those who sponsor through our sponsorship scheme and to those supporters who give so generously but wish to remain anonymous a very big thank you for your loyal and continuous prayers and support.



Website: www.friendsoflazarushomeforgirls.org.uk

I am able to post all the latest news; you can also if you wish donate via Just Giving where you can submit a donation via payment or text.

Talks: if your church or group would like a talk (no charge) on the Lazarus project please contact the registered office where we would be delighted to include you into our 2017 diary.

Friends of Lazarus Home for Girls in Bethany™

UK Charity Registration No: 1075024 Palestinian NGO Registration QR-0200-F

Registered office: 2 The Steadings Old Hartley Whitley Bay NE26 4RL. UK

Tel: +44 (0)191 237 6798 Email: lazarus.anderson@btinternet.com

Website: friendsoflazarushomeforgirls.org.uk

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.

Sundays In all our work for children in the Holy Land, we praise our heavenly Father, when we walk by faith to fulfil his wishes to provide a home for girls.

Mondays Give thanks for bishop Younan agreeing to become our new patron and our future Spiritual connection.

Tuesdays Pray for Ibrahim's dialogue on the "Friends" behalf with the Palestinian local authority for assistance with the documentation process to procure the operational approval to run the new home.

Wednesdays Pray for the relocation of the present girls and staff; and their return to our new building.

Thursdays Praise the Lord for all his blessings and the continued work of all our supporters and sponsors, who serve Christ in serving the Home.

Fridays Pray for the long term future of the Home, owned and now run by the Friends in the UK; and for the Home's ultimate future government by a locally based body working in cooperation with the Friends.

Saturdays Pray for the clinic, kindergarten and remedial centre which form an integral part of healing for the girls and the local community; for the contribution they make to peace in Israel and the West Bank.

