

From the UK...

There are so many ways that individuals and organisations in the UK can help provide for the needs of those in the Holy Land. One of our initiatives is the CNT UK Schools Giving Programme. This scheme encourages schools in the UK to build special relationships with schools in the Holy Land, many of which lack the most basic of teaching equipment and educational materials. So far schools in Northamptonshire have collected sixty boxes of books for distribution to their brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

We are pleased to report that the Parish of Olney in Bedfordshire has adopted CNT as its charity for 2002 and Ealing Priory in London is providing funding to pay the wages of a teacher.

From the Holy Land...

The Trust receives daily communications from people from all walks of life who are witnesses to and are part of the on-going suffering that blights this Holiest of places. Many of the emails and letters we have received are too upsetting to publish but we would like to share with you the words of some of our correspondents.

Fr Iyad Twal writes from Bir Zeit: writes; *'We don't have running water and have had to bring in supplies and wait. We are under a very hard siege and no one can reach us or leave. I am very worried about the children and young adults for serious side effects, which could damage many virtues and attitudes for the future. It is a critical, dangerous period, either we survive or not.'*

Dr Maria C. Khoury is a teacher who wrote to us about the regular harassment of children, priests and nuns at road blocks and checkpoints. She included some messages from her students:

'The people of the Holy land have become victims of the absence of peace. If I had a wish, my wish would be to live in peace forever.'

Maha Jarrar 7th grade Zababedeh.

'I don't feel that I'm safe. I always feel that I live in fear and I'm disappointed because there's no stability..so I wish peace would be coming one day.'

Mary Sayez 6th grade Bir Zeit.

'My house was hit twice by the Israeli soldiers. I just cried and couldn't sleep. So if I had a wish, I would say and scream to every responsible person in the world to give us our childhood and stop the tears flowing from the mothers' eyes for losing their children and husbands and the tears of little children who lost their mothers and fathers, the war is bad, evil and painful, the war is now in my lovely homeland in Palestine.'

Mariam Abu Amsha 6th grade Beit Jala.

'I want to be safe from all these things, all day blood and damaged houses and fire. Who can help my friends and me? I wish to be safe just one day. I want them to go away from my dreams.'

Loudy Shaheen 6th grade Birzeit.

Colin Brooks, a pilgrim to the Holy Land, wrote to us about the lack of teaching materials in schools and shared his impressions of some of the children he met. *'In Palestine the pupils at some of the sites were in stark contrast with the ones we had seen in Jordan – similar children, but the bright eyes were replaced by glazed looks. The happy smiles had changed to grim frightened mouths. The teachers told us that when asked to draw pictures even the little ones draw either tanks or guns. One six year old had had the lower part of his arm blown away when a tank shell exploded near him. Another boy was grieving for his brother, who was killed by a sniper – the youngster couldn't understand who had taken him away and where he had gone.'*

Cambridge
Nazareth
Trust



Helping Young People
of the Holy Land

Today...
for all their Tomorrows...

Dear Reader

On behalf of the Trustees of the Cambridge Nazareth Trust (CNT) I welcome you to this first edition of our Newsletter. We would like to express our thanks to all those of you who have supported our cause by contributing financially and also those who have provided their valuable time, energy, skills and resources.

It is six months since we launched our Educational Sponsorship Scheme and I am pleased to announce that we have received pledges and contributions from schools, parishes and individuals throughout England and Wales. So far we have raised £34,000 towards our target of £150,000.

The Latin Patriarch and his Education Directors, Fr Hanna and Fr Majdi, have expressed their thanks to all our sponsors for the £8,000 we have already sent for special projects at the Hashimi, Fuheis and Marka schools. We are all painfully aware of the extreme conditions of hardship that they are suffering at the moment, particularly as many schools in the Palestinian Authority territories have been closed during the recent occupation. Our prayers and thoughts go out to them all.

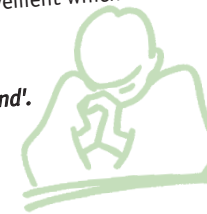
In this edition you will find details of the three schools in the Holy Land with whom we will be having an increasingly close relationship. An important objective of the Trustees is that school children in the United Kingdom are able to get closer to the students in the Holy Land. Our representative Tony Ockenden OBE has arranged for the Head Teachers of each of these three schools to visit England this summer and meet the heads of the Catholic Schools in Purley, Surrey. This will form a foundation for a fuller exchange of ideas and experiences.

Finally, we ask you to pray that the Holy Spirit will work for the good of all peoples so that justice and peace reign. Here is a prayer from the peace movement which sums up our aspirations:

'Use, O God, our hands, our feet, and our tongues, to bring peace back to our people's hearts and justice back to our land!'

God bless and thank you

Peter Smith Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee



CNT

Cambridge Nazareth Trust

8 Nursery Drive, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, NN8 4HE

Charity Number 289084

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CNT Educational Sponsorship Scheme

Since its formation in 1984, CNT's mission has been to advance the education of young people in the Holy Land of Palestine and Jordan. Working closely with the Latin Patriarchate, we have already been able to help provide for the needs of many students who would otherwise struggle to achieve an education. The Patriarchate is responsible for 900 teachers and 15,000 students in 34 schools in Jordan and Palestine. In order to provide targeted assistance the Trust has agreed to form special relationships with the following schools.

Fuheis (Jordan)



Number of students – 1,000. Number of staff – 75. Fuheis is a large town situated to the west of Amman and is almost entirely Christian. There are two parish churches situated a mile apart. Balad, dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of St Mary, was built in 1932 and Alali, dedicated to St Mary, Mother of all Blessings, was built in 1986. Approximately 600 families live in the combined parishes.

The school was founded in 1951. The kindergarten, primary and middle grades study at Alali and the secondary grades at Balad. Fr Hanna Kildani, the Director of Schools for Jordan, is the Parish Priest at Balad. The cost of running the school in 2000/2001 was \$438,000.



For further information on the Latin Patriarchate Schools, you can visit their website at www.lpj.org/schools.html

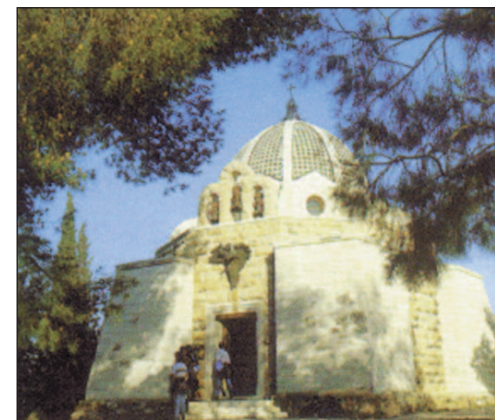
Amman Hashimi (Jordan)

Number of students – 730. Number of staff – 46. Hashimi is a suburb to the northeast of Amman. The Parish Priest is Fr Ashraf Nimri. The school was founded in 1949 in a poor, densely populated district of the city. It has limited ground space in which to operate, especially the playground area which is very restrictive for the number of students. Both boys and girls are drawn from the local population, which is a mixture of Christians and Muslims. The school offers education in the kindergarten and primary grades only. The cost of running the school in 2000/2001 was \$186,000.



Beit Sahour (Palestine)

Number of students – 320. Number of staff – 23. Beit Sahour is a village adjoining Bethlehem built on the site of the old Shepherds Fields. There is a flourishing Christian community with an attractive Parish Church where Fr Majdi Siryani is the Parish Priest. The school was founded in 1864 and is situated alongside the Church. At present it caters for boys and girls in the kindergarten, primary and middle grades. Plans have been agreed for the building of a secondary school on the same site and a Spanish non-government organisation has approved expenditure for the structure. Funding will be needed for furniture and equipment. The school is closed due to the military presence. The cost of running the school in 2000/2001 was \$215,000.



How you can help...

Individuals, Parishes, Groups, Schools and Companies can all contribute to the running of these schools.

OUR PROJECTS...

1. SCHOOL FEES: £18 a month secures a student's education
2. KEY TEACHERS: £150 a month bridges the salary gap to retain key teachers
3. SMALL PROJECTS FUND: regular or one-off donations for teaching materials, educational aids, essential building maintenance and 'sensory support' for the deaf and blind

