



**December 2020 Update**

## ***CNT Holy Land Crisis Response - thanks to you!***

### **HUMANITARIAN AID £5,000 AID FOR AUTUMN TERM**

**In August, liaising with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ), CNT reached out by sending £5,000 to Palestine, with £1,000 for Christian students in Gaza and £4,000 for needy families in the LPJ parish of Zababdeh (60% Christian area) to provide books, school uniforms and school bags. The poorest, Christians, are suffering most. Tourism, the main livelihood for many Palestinians, has been devastated and mass unemployment looms. There are no state benefits and, with family savings depleted, poverty, anxiety and stress are growing. Your prayers and generosity give hope as the messages below show.**

Dear Chair of CNT

12 September 2020.

Saint Theresa of Calcutta said: "you can do a small work with a big love". Your offer maybe for others is a small amount of money but for us, it's a full of love and support for our students and our school.

We helped a lot of our students to get their books and school needs, and we bought some fans for some classrooms.

In the name of our students, we would like to thank you and send you their greetings. Union of prayers.

Fr Ibrahim Nino, Director of LPJ School Zababdeh, Palestine

Respectful Chair of CNT

23 September 2020

Greetings from Holy Family School, Gaza

We do highly appreciate your donation for some needy students at our school which helped them get their school uniform and books. Your donation was really a sign of your love and support to our students and our school. Yours Sincerely,

Neven Hakoura, Director of Holy Family School Gaza

### **£5,000 FOR IRAQI CHRISTIAN CHILD REFUGEES IN JORDAN**

**In March, CNT trustees were filled with admiration for Fr Khalil Ja'ar's support of Iraqi refugees and decided to send him the funds earmarked for the cancelled Ramallah Project. Fr Khalil's parish provides a safe haven of peace for these refugees, otherwise forgotten by the world. We realised that Covid 19 was making the desperate situation of these refugee children even worse. Fr Khalil was overwhelmed and replied:**

*"This donation from Cambridge Nazareth Trust for us is a sign from the LORD for HE IS TAKING CARE FOR HIS CHILDREN'*

*On my behalf and on behalf of all our needy families I thank you so much. We keep you in our daily prayer."*

Fr. Khalil Ja'ar, Parish priest of Mary Mother of the Church, Marka, Amman, Jordan

[www.lpj.org/posts/jordan-saints-21st-century](http://www.lpj.org/posts/jordan-saints-21st-century)

## **You have helped to give specialist training to 95 teachers**

When Covid 19 struck, CNT's plans for a March training project in Ramallah in Palestine were quickly cancelled, fortunately with only little cost. We seized the opportunity of a **new Online Teacher Training** project prepared by our usual tutors at Lewis School of English in Southampton - [www.lewis-school.co.uk](http://www.lewis-school.co.uk)  
**LPJ teachers acquired new online skills and invaluable human and emotional support in the crisis.**

**March:            “Helping Students with Pronunciation”            8 Palestinian LPJ teachers**

**Fluency in English is key.** Over a hectic weekend with Palestine in lockdown, **eight** Palestinian teachers managed to register. For two weeks the teachers worked online completing collaborative tasks with the support of their specialist online tutor. The two recently appointed Palestinian Supervisors, Hadeel and Diana, trained by The English Project (a **KHS** and **CNT** funded Teacher Training Project for teachers of English in the **LPJ** schools begun in 2011), provided essential oversight and proved their worth in supporting their less digitally confident colleagues.

*“The hard work you have done for us is truly valuable. Thanks a lot”*. Abeer Hanna, LPJ Director Palestine

**This was so successful that further courses followed. As working online became the norm, the need for experience of working online became greater.**

**May: “Getting Creative with Resources”    21 Palestinian LPJ teachers, with 2 from Gaza**

*“Best class I have ever joined – inspiring, fun and motivating” and “I gained a great deal during the course which will be beneficial in the classroom”* sum up their responses.

- *“I really enjoyed the course. It was good for me. I have never taken an online course before. It added a lot to me. I learned many things. I learned how to evaluate resources and what was best for my students' needs. I learned how to source, exploit and adapt material with the minimum preparation to engage my lovely students. Tom [the course leader] you have been great. The course was detailed and organised. I liked the flexibility of being able to log on at any time. Thank you, Diana and Hadeel [the LPJ Supervisors] for all your help”. - Afifeh*
- *“Authentic materials help students to enjoy the class” – Abeer    “So happy to meet new colleagues on this workshop” – Norma    “Course provided efficient techniques and resources which will improve my teaching skills” – a teacher from Gaza    “Always a challenge to find resources but now have access to a website to create a lesson or a video – more professional and engaging” - Diana*

**A highly creative online learning community was underway - vital to engage pupils in the new world of online education. Teachers from Gaza were able, for the first time, to join the training sessions.**

**May/June:            “Helping Students with Pronunciation”            16 LPJ teachers**

**Ideas were shared across the geographical border, made possible by online training. 9 Jordanian and 7 Palestinian teachers were for the first time paired together, calling the experience ‘Caring and Sharing’.**

Those teachers reluctant or hesitant were persuaded of the need to adopt total immersion in English throughout their English lessons, which they accepted.

- *“Thank you for this opportunity to develop our teaching skills. I appreciate all the work that you have put into this training. It is good that we are building bridges between LPJ teachers and exchanging experiences. It has helped to develop my skills as a teacher”. - Wafa*

- *Others reported:*
- *“I am excited to share what I have learned with my students” “ We discussed many topics – stress, intonation for natural speech” “Learned many techniques and how sounds are made” “I was worried about learning online, with all the pressures of the virus and being at home it was a very new experience but I now feel better and more comfortable”  
“Thank you for a great experience, pleasant and valuable”*

**July: “Helping Students with Pronunciation” 26 LPJ Jordanian teachers**

*“We are very busy in finding ways to deliver our lessons to our students as we are back online because Covid 19 cases are increasing. The courses we took with Lewis school helped us so much to make our lessons more fun for them. “it's unusual & fun” one of the comments I have got from parents. The parents are watching my classes too. I use movie trailers, songs, games so I won't be boring. It is hard to go to school to empty desks. Tell you the truth, the first time I did the online class I had butterflies but now I feel really happy when my students and I interact together. Amazing feeling each time”. - Shireen*

**October: “Student Centred Teaching” 22 LPJ teachers including 6 from Gaza**

These Jordanian and Palestinian teachers, as well as delivering their usual lessons, followed a demanding four-week long Lewis course.

Listen to **Asma** from Gaza:

- *“Through my teaching experience, I get the most passionate about interacting with my students, especially kids. Helping my students learn English and using what they learn to connect to their real lives is my worth achieving goal”*

and to **Rula**, the English Supervisor for LPJ Jordan, listing all the courses she has attended:

- *“Not forgetting, the TESOL (Teaching English to Students of another Language) certificate from Lewis school which I received in 2013. This amazing opportunity opened many doors for me to improve myself and the way I teach”.*

The LPJ Education Directors, Fr Jamal Kader and Abeer Hanna in Palestine and Fr Wissam Mansour and Suha Haddadin in Jordan, are very grateful. The groundwork laid by successive earlier projects coupled with the strong relationships and trust built, undoubtedly helped with this smooth transition to online training. **We are indebted to our Lewis tutors:** Tom, Abby and Jonathan displayed the patience, flexibility and understanding we experienced from our original team. Tom described the LPJ teachers as “a joy to teach”. Any organisational problems presented were speedily resolved by WhatsApp, Zoom and Facetime calls. **The internet saved the day as it has done for us all.** [www.lewis-school.co.uk/online-teacher-courses](http://www.lewis-school.co.uk/online-teacher-courses)

In her e-mail of 17 November, **Abeer** said:

*“I am sure that our teachers are experiencing a great opportunity that any English teacher would love to go through.*

*Although their work in schools has doubled due to current conditions, these courses are beneficial for them as they use the skills and methods they have learned in blended learning, this is a big achievement.*

*We are very grateful for your understanding and for the support and encouragement provided by Abby and Tom [Lewis tutors]”.*

Margaret, CNT’s Chair, a retired teacher and teacher trainer, monitored the teachers’ impressive online progress. **In challenging circumstances - with intermittent internet connections, local closures and their meagre salaries reduced as a consequence of the economic impact of Covid 19 - the LPJ teachers once again showed their dedication to their schools and their pupils.**

Throughout the ravages of the pandemic, your donations have enabled CNT to provide this most beneficial support. This series of successful online courses has built on the on-site training you have helped to finance. The online training has proved to be a very efficient and cost-effective way of CNT supporting the Christian community in this devastating crisis.

Visit [www.latin-schools.org/en](http://www.latin-schools.org/en) We will ask LPJ for its priorities for 2021.

### **TONY OCKENDEN OBE KGCHS**

*Margaret writes:* Tony Ockenden, for many years a most valued supporter of CNT, died in November at the age of 92. He travelled regularly to the Holy Land and used his financial expertise to advise the schools administration team. In 2009, he encouraged me to go with him to visit the LPJ schools and meet his contacts. That visit changed my life. Tony had been unable to travel in recent years but he was always eager to hear of the developments in the schools, which were dear to his heart. He loved the people and the places of the Holy Land and all there loved Tony, recognised his abilities and what he had achieved. He will be sorely missed by them and us. A life richly lived. May he rest in peace.

**Thank you, Shukran, for helping CNT support children in the Holy Land**

### **You can help by**

**Remembering these beleaguered communities in your prayers**

**Praying for the success of our mission**

**Donating online or by cheque to Cambridge Nazareth Trust (for gift aid see below)**

**Making a standing order (see bank details below)**

**Organising fundraising in your parish or school**

**Please send cheques to the Treasurer, Phil Parker, 10 West End, Wilburton, Ely, CB6 3RE**

**Gift aid declarations are available from Phil or Margaret (e-mail address below)**

**Bank Account: Cambridge Nazareth Trust, Santander Bank, sort code 09-01-52**

**Account number 82994505**

**Our Patron is Rt Rev Alan Hopes, Bishop of East Anglia. The Trustees are Margaret Waddingham (Chair), Mgr Eugene Harkness, Donald McEwen and Benedict McHugo (Secretary), with Phil Parker as Treasurer.**

**Trustees pay their own expenses and CNT keeps its administrative costs to a minimum.**

**CNT will never give your personal details to any other organisation**

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