



مؤسسة الأراضي المقدسة للصم

The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf

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June 2015



“It is His world that we were given to look after and care for,
His land, His people, His children...”

In this edition:

Golden Jubilee:
The dictionary is available!



News concerning the
Syrian Kids



Images from the
refugee camp



Deafinitely connected – God provides

Letter

*We did not receive a Spirit of fear
but of power and love and a sound mind.*

2 Timothy 1:7



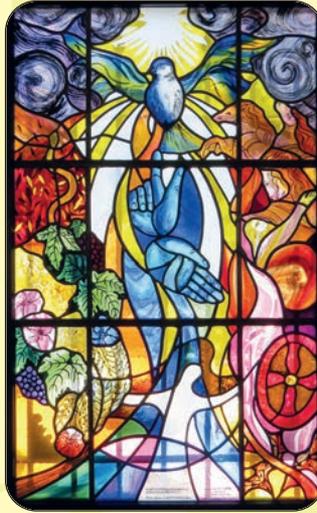
Dear Friends,

Pentecost 2015

Pentecost, the Feast of the Spirit of God!

In the Jewish tradition people celebrate on this day how **Moses** received the Law, the Ten Commandments, on the mountain of Sinai.

In the Christian tradition people remember that the Holy Spirit descended upon **Jesus the Messiah** in the form of a Dove at his Baptism, when he started his work. The Feast of Pentecost reminds us how the same Spirit of God



was poured out upon all the people who followed him to strengthen them for the task ahead.

In the Muslim tradition that same Spirit appears again when people are reminded how, through the **Virgin Mary**, God Almighty had done a new thing when the Messiah Jesus was born of the Spirit of God - in order, as we learned, to be born again in man.

The poor and bewildered disciples, feeling a bit like orphans when they had seen the Lord Jesus after the resurrection, received strength and courage from that Godly Spirit when they boldly went out into the world, with "fire in their bones". Like them we are still in need of that same Spirit when we share the Good News for this tragic world, and live it, talk it, do it; through kindness and care; by looking after vulnerable children or by giving lonely, disabled, elderly people a 'new family' and a chance "to live with dignity". It is His world that we were given to look after and care for, His land, His people, His children...

Thank you for your tremendous support, and for sharing in the task ahead of us all.

With warm regards, on behalf of children and staff,

Brother Andrew



Visit from the EU

On the 30th May Helga Stevens came to Salt and visited our institute. Mrs Stevens is from Belgium, Deaf and a Member of the European Parliament. In the morning all students, teachers and staff members assembled to attend Mrs Stevens' speech in Sign

language. She encouraged the students to try hard in their studies and see themselves equal to hearing people. After visiting the school she expressed her happy surprise about the institute, its level of education and the large number of Deaf staff.



Mrs Stevens and her team with our high school students



Fire

One afternoon in May, the cry of, 'Fire, fire!' rang out across the playground. Sure enough, a tree just outside the boarding house had caught fire and was burning fiercely.

The fire spread quickly, soon engulfing three trees and three fuel storage tanks. Within minutes, the fire brigade arrived on the scene and, amid a sea of inquisitive looks from the staff of the Institute as well as half the neighbourhood, proceeded to get the fire under control. Thankfully, the children were in school at the time of the incident and the windows of the boarding house were closed, mitigating any damage and further harm.



Congress and Award

Br. Andrew participated at the first *World Congress on Ear and Hearing Care* in India that was organized and financed by *Sound Hearing 2030* and the *Christoffel Blind Mission*. This spring he was in Dubai to represent our department for Deafblind Children and the project *Hearing Express* of the *World Wide Hearing* organization. They were nominated and short-listed for the *Princess Haya Award*.

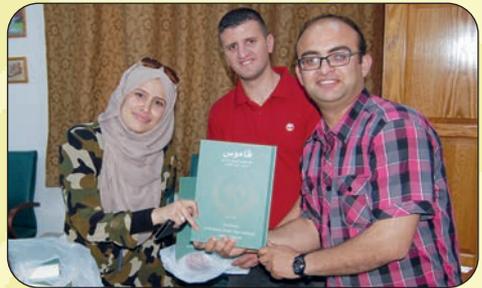
The new dictionary is available!

After a long period of work on a Jordanian Sign Language dictionary, the time finally came for its publication. We organised an event on 25th May to mark the occasion. Many of the Institute's friends and all Deaf people in Jordan and their families were invited.



Because the printing was generously financed by our Jordanian *Ahli Bank*, we were able to distribute copies of the dictionary to Deaf guests for free. It also puts us in a position to make the dictionary available to many Jordanian families with deaf children, and to all the schools and clubs for the Deaf. We are very grateful to the sponsors who supported us and helped with the *creation of the dictionary*:

- Episcopal Relief, New York
- Paulinenpflege, Winnenden D
- Christoffel Blind Mission, D
- Mill Neck Organisation, New York
- Balqa University, Salt
- Jordan Ahli Bank



Sign language teacher Rowan presents two Deaf alumni with dictionaries.



The new ball run, which Joshua and the Vocational Training students produced, prompts excitement.



Guests climb on the climbing wall, which Joel and the students installed in the gym.

The biggest Jubilee Gift

On the plot of land adjacent to the Holy Land Close stands a disused former pharmaceutical factory. After years of prayer and preparation and supported by HM Queen Mother Muna, HRH Prince Raad bin Zeid and HRH Prince Mired bin Raad (President of the Higher Council for Disability Affairs), it was finally possible to meet with the director of the pharmaceutical company. To our surprise and great delight he agreed to grant the plot to the Institute according to an agreement that roughly defines the purpose of the new project.

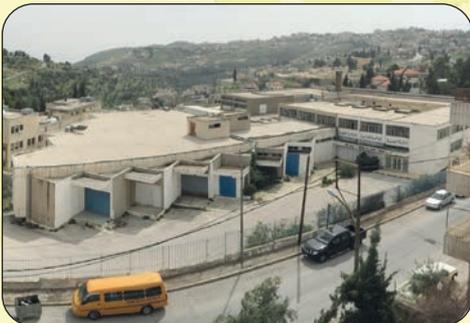


green: HLID

|

red: former factory

Two new part-time volunteers, **Patrick** (a language student from the UK who came through the British Friends' Association, left) and **John** (a civil engineer from South Korea that God sent our way), are helping to draw up project proposals. We are now preparing and praying anew for the means to salvage those parts of the building that are still structurally sound and to demolish other parts. The rest of the building complex needs to be tested structurally before renovations take place in the coming years to get it ready for use as a centre for children and elderly persons who are Deaf, medically fragile and/or have multiple disabilities.



Dorm Room Challenge

Throughout this school year we ran a competition in the lower grade dormitories whereby the boys, arranged in teams according to dorm room, collect points to secure the first prize: a morning trip to downtown Salt to spend their prize money as they wish.

As it stands, each team has won the competition at least once. It's great to watch how the boys are learning to take responsibility for their team mates and work collectively, spontaneously offering to help out without needing to be asked. It was also great to observe in the course of this competition how less extrovert and less talkative children that might otherwise be left out found a niche within each group and are included.



Each of the four dorm rooms compete to collect 250 coloured balls.



To gain points, the children volunteer to help with chores.



Moatassem (left) and Ala' help Faris with an arm cast get dressed, so that they can all be ready before the others.



In the evenings, the boys are tucked up in bed, ready for a "good night".

School, children and students



Shared aims promote cooperation.



As a reward, the victors get to go to the downtown shopping centre of Salt.

News concerning the Syrian Kids

Siblings Mohammed, Shahed and Mahmoud started school at the beginning of the last school term. In the last newsletter we wrote that their behaviour was sometimes hard to handle and they had to learn a lot.

At this present time, however, we are happy to report that the three kids are developing very well. They have become calmer and more obedient. They are now much better integrated into the group and love to play peacefully with other children. But there is one thing that has not changed about them: They are still easygoing, cheerful and compete with each other in giggling!



Shahed helps Ahlam to re-pot flowers.

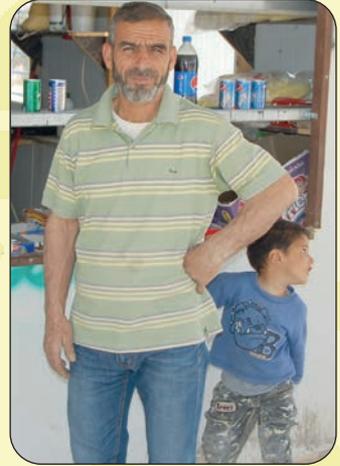


Mohammed (white trousers) and Mahmoud (orange t-shirt) play peacefully with the other boys.

A generous gesture

Three years ago, we started our work among Syrian refugees with disabilities in Za'atari Camp in the north of Jordan. Abu Qasem was among the first people we met there.

Back then, he asked for help with his son who has a mobility impairment and needed a chair for the toilet. As our team members were talking to **Abu Qasem** it became clear that he understood only very little of what we told him. We offered him a free hearing test and later on got him a hearing aid. Gratefully he placed his refugee caravan – where he lives - at our disposal. In the early years, we used it, and its electricity, twice a week as a location for testing hearing and sight, which needs a place and electricity. While testing, Abu Qasem's wife generously offered tea to our team and to clients.



Today, we have our own small centre just behind Abu Qasem's caravan and there is enough room for hearing and sight testing. Still, Abu Qasem is a highly appreciated volunteer, who keeps an eye on our centre during the nights.

Last summer the financing of the project at Za'atari Camp ran out. We were very grateful that the *Diaconal services of Germany* and the *Said Foundation* in England again jumped in to sponsor of the project.



After the summer we will start a new project for Deaf and disabled Syrian children who do not live in refugee camps but all over Jordan. Our partner is the *IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities)* from the USA.

Outreach



Deaf kindergarten kids are taught by **Marwan**, our Jordanian Deaf teacher of deaf children.



Buthaina, leader of our centre in Za'atari, helps a war injured man to get into his wheelchair.



A group of visually impaired children.



Audiologist **Mohammed** counsels patients and parents about hearing aids.



Marwa gets a new hearing aid. The great joy registers on her face.



Surprising skills

The big challenge for children who are deafblind is to break out of their black, isolated world and develop an interest in their environment. Because they have never seen or heard anything they generally are not able to understand themselves as individual persons nor of the concept that there are other people around them. Their world is just as big as they are able to reach with their hands. That is why we aim with our work with the children who are deafblind to educate them towards taking initiatives themselves, which is how the children learn to think and act more independently.



The deafblind boy **Hazem** is now 16 years old and has minimal residual hearing, that is not quite enough to understand somebody who is talking to him. With a hearing aid he is able to perceive some dull sounds. Hazem shows hardly any initiative and is only able to communicate the basics. However, the following small anecdote illustrates that Hazem understands quite a few things and that he is

beginning to take decisions and act independently.

*Last January Hazem became very upset because his hearing aids were not working. When he wears his hearing aids he enjoys letting a wisp of music enter into his terrible, silent world. He pulled them off his ears and threw them far away. When he calmed down **David**, his teacher at that time, asked him in tactile Sign language: "What do you want to do now?" Hazem answered with the sign for "hearing aid". So the two of them looked for the hearing aids and found them. David then asked again: "What do you want to do now"? Again Hazem answered: "Hearing aid." This confused David as obviously the hearing aids had already been found.*

Suddenly, and on his own initiative, Hazem left the Deafblind Unit and went down the stairs. David followed him curiously and was amazed: Hazem went straight to the Audiology Department and in this way communicated that he wanted his hearing aids fixed. Though he was not able to express this in signs, he could make himself understood. The audiology staff happily served this special customer, changed the batteries and replaced a broken piece. Soon Hazem went happily back to the Deafblind Unit with his fixed hearing aids. This short episode was a great encouragement for David and the other teachers in the deafblind unit.

Deafblind Unit

An opportunity for Mareen

In April a new little deafblind girl, Mareen, joined the children of the deafblind unit.

She is two years old and has some residual hearing. Till now she has barely been able to gain some basic 'life' experience. For deaf and deafblind children it is very important to start stimulating them as early as possible. We are glad that Mareen was able to start as young as she is, and that she will have a fair chance to have a good life.



*Mareen with her teacher **Fatina***

Aline's visit

Aline (NL, blue shirt), who was of tremendous help in the past with the development of the Deafblind work, ran courses for the teachers together with **Asma'** (deputy head, green shirt), **Tamara** (Swiss volunteer, black shirt) and

Samar (teacher and interpreter, on the far right). Following this, she went with Asma' and Samar to the *World Deafblind Congress* in Romania.



H.E.A.R.

(Hearing aids, Ear moulds, Audiology and Resources)

Portrait of the Audiology Team

For more than 30 years our Audiology Department has offered services to people with hearing impairments.

It gives expert assistance to our students, the population of Salt and in particular also to poor people. The department also takes care of the training of technicians from Arab countries.



*f.l.t.r: **Mohammed** (audiologist), **Fida** (ear mould technician), **Roula** (secretary), **Mayada** (hearing aid technician, acting head), **Mais** (audiologist), **Ayat** (assistant audiologist)*

Training courses in Kurdistan



Samir teaches speech exercises.

In February, Samir, head of STRIDE, and Mais, an Iraqi staff member of the Audiology department in Salt, travelled to Erbil in the Kurdish north of Iraq.

They conducted training courses for teachers of the Deaf. On site, they were supported by **Bayda**, the Head of the HLID office in Baghdad.



Mais teaches a group of Kurdish teachers of the Deaf.



Bayda gives advice to the teacher trainees how to create teaching materials.

General News

Kitchen equipment

Following a change in the regulations of the Ministry of Health all institutions have to use pots, pans and cooking utensils made of stainless steel. The Jordanian *Wings of Hope Foundation* of the **Muasher family** used money from this fund to pay for the equipment and for a new refrigerator.



Swiss Guests

On 2nd of May a tour group from Switzerland led by **Daniel Mauerhofer** and his son **Thomas** came to visit us. One highlight of the short visit was the joint evening meal with the Deaf and deafblind students, and a discussion about living in Jordan.

Friends in the USA

In April, **Anne Lynn** (President *AFEDJ*) and some members of the *American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)* paid us a visit. Apart from financial support in various ways, they made it possible for us to have a video/audio system in the chapel. In May **Br. Andrew** made a counter visit to the association. We are also very grateful that the *AFEDJ* supports the *Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD-USA)*, to provide very substantial help for the Jordan Valley centres.



Anne with Yousef, manager of the Jordan Valley Centres in Jofeh and Kreimeh



Long-time friends

This spring **Dick** and **Anje** (NL) visited us. **Gerhard** (CH) ran cooking courses. **Ria** (NL, right) helped with the administration. Also the former volunteer **Nathalie** (CH, left) was here. **Nellie** (NL) brought us some

beautiful clay figures for the Christmas cradle display.

Allen and **Christine** (UK, right picture) attended the dictionary party with a small group and helped again, like ten years ago, with renovations in the Old Hospital in Salt.



Hearing aids on a rally trip

The hearing aid company *Langer* from South Germany presented us with a large quantity of hearing aids. Question was how to get this gift to Jordan! The rather unconventional solution of the problem? - The **FreeRider SCA**, a group of skiers from Aspach (D), took part in the *Allgäu-Orient-Rally* and brought the hearing aids along to Salt and on top of that gave us a generous donation.

Spontaneously, also a second rally team called **NahAmRosten** joined them and both teams dedicated their whole traveling equipment to us.



Back from Egypt

English teacher and Sign language interpreter, **Jameel**, has returned to Jordan after having lived in Egypt for one year. We are glad that he is back again and, as Jameel said: "I have missed the Deaf children and using Sign language". Back in Salt, he has been working on the Sign language dictionary, doing Sign language interpretation, and has started to teach again.



Jameel working on the Sign language dictionary.

A growing family

The institute is not only a school or place to work but also a large family. Living and sharing together are just as important as the results of exams or jobs.

Some Deaf employees, like for instance **Ahlam, Asma', Ala', Amjad and Salah**, live here at the institute together with the Deaf students. There are also several families living around the school who are connected with the school in more ways than just work: The couples **Issa and Fadia, Hatem and Nisreen, Sahel and Samira** as well as **Nicolas and Adawiye** with their



*F.l.t.r.: **Abraar, Fida, Baby Mohammed, Wijdan, Mohammed and Maria** in front*

children were joined by another family that now lives and works with us: **Fida** is a former student of our school and the brother of **Abraar**, who is currently a student. He works in our Audiology Department as an ear mould technician while his wife **Wijdan**, also Deaf, works as a teacher in the Deafblind Unit. They have two small hearing children. At the same time **Wijdan** arranged for her younger Deaf brother **Mohammed** to come to school and live in the boarding house. The family as well as new student **Mohammed** are very lovable and they were warmly taken in by our school family. The next couple will be **Amjad** and **Alaa** who hope to get married coming August.

Moving to Fuheis

After living for almost a year in Salt the **Fischer family** moved to an attractive house in Fuheis, a village nearer to Amman, as both their sons are attending school in Amman.



A family project in Jordan



Family Kolsters
with René's parents **Ria** and **Henk**

Lego for the boys. They continued their school education through home schooling. Tanja collected money to create a "Snoezelen" (time-out) room for the deafblind children and is now also helping out in the Deafblind Unit. René collected money and computer

Already for many years René Kolsters came to Salt about twice a year to help us for one week. Last winter he, his wife Tanja and both their children Thomas (13) and Joanne (11) decided to live and work with us for half a year.

In Holland Joanne collected colourful rubber bands to make bracelets with the Deaf girls and Thomas collected



Thomas distributes Lego in the boys' boarding house. In the background **Thomas' grandfather Hans**.



Joanne, Aseel, Noura and **Zeinab** are making colourful bracelets.

hardware, has been looking after our computer network and installed a video and audio system in the chapel. In spring the parents of René as well as Tanja's parents visited the family here in Salt. In June the half year came to an end. We will miss each other.

Jordan Valley Centres

Music lessons in Jofeh

The Jofeh centre in the Jordan valley offers vocational training, a sheltered workshop environment as well as school education and care for Deaf and intellectually impaired children. Now, a team of British volunteers from the *Anglican Church* in Amman and the Jordanian volunteer supervisors of the centre run music and basic English lessons. The children very much enjoy making music together.



Friends of the Holy Land Institute
for the Deaf

Contact in the United Kingdom:
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for the Deaf** (Formerly Allah Karlem-UK)



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