



مؤسسة الاراضي المقدسة للصم / السلط The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf

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December 2015



The Bride (Tamara) with
Hadeel (Deafblind)

« ... I was a stranger and you invited me into your home ... »

(Gospel of Matthew 25:35)

New School Principal
«Iman»



New ramps and
balustrades



Baking with Deaf and
Deafblind students



Deafinitely connected -God provides

UNINVITED GUESTS



Dear Friends,

Imagine a small village, perhaps some 20 or 30 households, an hour's walk from Jerusalem. Most of the families belong to the tribe and family of King David of old. They live in one- or two room houses, many cut out of the rock. The stones from the excavations are used to build a guestroom right on top of each house or cave, and visiting relatives will always find a warm welcome among their cousins.

Small children play about and help look after the family's animals, kept outside in summer. In the cold season the animals live in designated lower areas inside the houses and caves, to help keep the houses warm. You would see sheep and goats, donkeys, chicken and other fowl. Cats and dogs keep the mice and other vermin in check. The village has no hotel because people would stay with their relatives in the guestrooms.

Suddenly there are uninvited guests. The whole tribe has come to stay over for a registration because the Emperor wants to count his subjects, for tax purposes of course. Joseph and Mary may have delayed their trip from Nazareth because Mary will soon give birth, and when they arrive there is no more room for them in the guestrooms. In desperation somebody invites them into the living room, and right among the animals Mary gives birth to her first born. Jesus, the promised Son of David, King of Kings, the Messiah has come!

More uninvited guests, shepherds who are staying with their flocks in the fields, have heard about the child from the angels, and come to see. Other uninvited guests, princes and wise men from afar, come to worship and bring gifts. Later yet more uninvited guests come when soldiers ride into Bethlehem to murder the children, at the command of a fearful and evil King.



Invited or Uninvited Guests?

These days millions of people have taken to the road, looking for a future for themselves and their families. War, poverty, hunger, sickness, and the dream of a better life have driven them on. They cross cold and dangerous seas and walk thousands of miles, braving hunger and thirst, humiliation and exploitation. Thank God for the goodness and kindnesses they meet on the way, like Mary and Joseph did in Bethlehem. Thank God that we, here in Jordan, are able to pick up some of the pieces of their shattered lives, and look after their disabled children.

Perhaps these uninvited guests remind their hosts that many of their relatives in the Middle East, Europe, United States... were once uninvited guests themselves, separated from family and community; refugees fleeing catastrophe and death, looking for life and a future. Some think there are terrorists, not unlike the murdering soldiers, hiding among these refugees and inevitably there will be. But among those thousands of people who have become our

GENERAL NEWS

uninvited guests there will be many who came especially to be a blessing to us. Like Joseph and Mary, the shepherds, the princes and angels. Perhaps, as is written, by giving hospitality we have harboured angels? And the Messiah, often an uninvited guest himself, promised His Kingdom to those who invited a stranger into their houses. Soon Christmas is upon us, when we celebrate the coming of the Christ. Although he became a refugee himself, he did not seek a better life; he came to give it! Especially now, thank God for Christmas.

With warm regards and every good wish, on behalf of children and staff,

Brother Andrew

Building changes

The institute strives to be accessible for people with both mobility, hearing- and visual impairments. The new elevator for the deafblind- and office building for instance, is equipped with floor indicator buttons in Braille. An intercom system would be useless for Deaf people, but the lift cabin has a door and one side of glass and windows in the shaft. Visual contact and Sign language are now possible wherever the lift might get stuck.



We are still working on the insulation of our old buildings to keep them cooler in summer and to save on heating expenses in winter.



After the fire outside the boarding house which destroyed a few trees and six oil tanks we had to buy a new fuel tank (20,000 liter). A new protective wall around the tank helps prevent theft, which happened several times in the past.

A wheelchair ramp now leads to the girls' vocational training unit and stairs are not anymore an obstacle for people visiting the boutique of the vocational training.

A much broader staircase that leads to the dining room better absorbs the rush at meal times. The staircase has balustrades to help the physically disabled and as an orientation aid for the deafblind children.

GENERAL NEWS

Sign language dictionary

On October 5th the new Jordanian-Arabic Sign language dictionary with Arabic and English translations was presented in the beautiful lobby of the Amman city hall.



HRH Prince Mired bin Raad, President of the Higher Council for Disability was guest of honor. To thank him for his support he received a copy of the dictionary in a beautiful wooden box. Also the representative of the **Jordan Ahli Bank** which paid for the printing costs, and the Vice President of the **Al-Balqa University** which provided some technical support, were handed a special edition of the dictionary. Two deaf members of the original editorial team, **Ahlam** and **Yousef**, were also honored for their work and achievement while the publishers were recognized for creating such an elaborate and high quality product. Some of the institute's students presented a folkloric dance in traditional dress. They presented a sketch that showed the importance of a dictionary for deaf children and their parents. A good friend of the institute, **Duke Mamdouh Bisharat**, treated all invited guests to lunch.

In the near future the institute hopes to be able to publish or reprint 18 books and brochures in the fields of the education of Deaf, hard-of-hearing and deafblind children, as well as about Sign language, Deaf culture, child protection and teacher training. This material will serve as a means to train a new generation of teachers.



SCHOOL NEWS

Iman

The most important change in staff since summer is the replacement of **Rehab**, the school's principal, with Iman. Rehab had to step back for medical reasons but still serves as advisor. Iman has worked at the institute for ten years; first as an English teacher and then as vice-principal of the school. Fortunately the longstanding head of kindergarten and vice-principal, **Fadileh** (deaf), and **Mr. Samir**, Assistant Director for education and training, are at her side.



Iman is mother of two children and lives with her family in the outskirts of Salt. Obviously it is not easy for her to have such a demanding job and at the same time be a mother. She says that sometimes she lacks sleep and that in the past she has thought about other work. But whenever she thought about it she also asked herself: "But who will teach the children?" The biggest hurdles in the way of teaching deaf children are the teaching of language and good communication between teachers and students. It is Iman's wish for the future that subject matter can be conveyed clearly and in a deaf friendly way with the help of the 34 teachers she is responsible for. She also hopes that the students in their final school year will cope better with the government exams. But there are problems that cannot be solved by her, such as a lack of competence of the Sign language interpreters who translate at the government exams.

CO-WORKERS

Volunteers and new employees



f.l.t.r Leon, Jamil, Helen, Hannes and John

The „**DIAKONIE**“ and the „**Evangelische Mission in Solidarität**“ (**EMD**) in Germany, in collaboration with a support and placement programme of the German government, sent us this year three volunteers. In spite of the new cultures and languages, **Helen** (office and supervision of small children), **Leon** (office and supervision boys) and **Hannes** (deafblind unit) work with joy and great commitment. **Jamil** from Palestine pursues the priesthood in the Anglican Church and is doing an internship in Salt. He is helping in the Salt parish church and here at the School he helps in the children’s clubs, does practical work with the older boys and helps supervise during break times. In the evening he tutors weaker students. We are grateful for his dedication and many talents.

Tsjong, alias John or Johanna (Arabic) from Korea lives since this summer in the institute. He is a great asset for Brother Andrew with his engineering and planning skills, especially for the “Old Factory” and other building and maintenance projects. He also teaches Technical Drawing and in the evening he helps the older students with their Mathematics.



Amir (left) and **Fuad** (right), relatives of our English teacher **Jamil**, are both from Egypt. We are very happy with their work in respectively the maintenance department and in housekeeping.



Btoul watching over the little children

CO-WORKERS

Wedding time

This summer two couples who live and/ or work at the institute were married.

Amjad (Deaf and with severe low vision) and **Alaa'** (Deaf) married in August and are very happy. They celebrated their marriage on the institute's campus. Guests included many deaf friends as well as **Prince Mired**. Amjad and Alaa' now live near the school. Amjad helps the new principal Iman as before and his wife Alaa will soon start to work here as well.



The volunteers **Joel** and **Tamara** from Switzerland also tied the knot this summer. For them, this was no reason to give up their work here. Both now have positions of leadership in the boarding houses besides their diverse administrative tasks. They moved into an apartment opposite the institute, right on the other side of the street. Congratulations to both couples. May God bless you richly!



The couple with Mohammed(deafblind)



.... and with Issa (deafblind)

OUTREACH

A new roof for the outreach center in Kreimeh

To protect the children of the Kreimeh center in the Jordan Valley from the blistering heat (up to 50 degrees Celsius), the vocational training students in Salt built a huge sunroof. The older students of the vocational training unit worked for months on a steel construction that can withstand strong winds. The whole structure was covered with corrugated plastic and now provides shelter. A big thank you to our **German friends of EMS** and the **Diakonie** for financial support!



REFUGEES

Outreach services/ Work among refugees

Not only Europe has refugees waiting at the borders, fleeing from the ongoing conflict in their home country. So far, Jordan has received 1.25 million Syrian refugees. Refugees with hearing and visual impairments as well as with physical, cognitive or neurological disabilities need special care.



Usually relief organizations forget their needs or consider them of secondary importance. The lack of facilities for diagnostics and rehabilitation impacts them severely and complicates their access to education, healthcare, social services as well as their participation in everyday life of society. Impairments do not only affect the impaired person himself, but also his entire family.

Relief & Rehabilitation and special & inclusive education for persons with disabilities among the Syrian Refugee Population in Zaatari Camp in Jordan

Periods	Screening No.	Assessing No.	Diagnosing No.	Devices of Rehabilitation No.	No. of total Beneficiaries
First Period : Dec./2012 _ Aug./2013					
Hearing Impairment		390	174	110	690
Visual Impairment		510	295	273	595
Cognitive Impairment		102	11	0	17
Physical Impairment		198	58	108	98
Total	1500	1200	538	491	1400
Second Period : Sep./2013 _ June/2014					
Hearing Impairment		263	182	163	490
Visual Impairment		453	313	326	408
Cognitive Impairment		68	10	0	37
Physical Impairment		157	68	105	108
Total	1494	941	573	594	1043
Third Period : Sep./2014 _ Dec./2015					
Hearing Impairment		475	360	399	852
Visual Impairment		1011	796	738	738
Cognitive Impairment		14	4	0	14
Physical Impairment		128	98	116	101
Total	1810	1628	1258	1253	1691

GENERAL NEWS

In November 2012 the institute started working among Syrian refugees in the huge refugee camp called Zaatari situated on the border with Syria. Thus far we have been able to help thousands of children and elderly people with various disabilities (see statistics page 8). We hope that the **diaconal institutions of Germany and Austria** will provide financial support for the project's extension into 2016. For long-term financial support we are also in discussion with the **European Commission in Brussels** and **UNICEF**, which is responsible for education in the refugee camps.



Visitors

Rene, a loyal and long-term volunteer, and his friend **Chris** visited us this year for work on the computer network. Already for many years also **Ria** and **Yvonne** come and do their jobs enthusiastically. We thank them for giving their precious time for the institute and its mission.

JUBILEE

We were glad that also the Synod of the Arabic Anglican Church participated in our 50th anniversary.



Gerhard, member of the Swiss committee, is making it a much appreciated habit to come twice a year to cook together with the children. For many children and employees he has become an older friend and “grandfather-figure”.

S.T.R.I.D.E.

(Salt Training and Resource Institute for Disability, Etc.)

STRIDE

An **Iraqi group** of eleven teachers for deaf children visited the institute for a workshop. These teachers scored highest during our earlier training courses for teachers in Iraq. For ten days they had the opportunity to be trained further while getting new ideas and inspiration for their work. In the future they will be able to use the newly gained knowledge in their Schools for Deaf Children in Iraq.



Top left : Trainer Mr. Samir

The group also made some trips in Salt's environs. The workshop was financially supported by **CBM** and the **HLID**. These are great opportunities to share the experience of the HLID and serve many more deaf children in the Middle East region.

Vocational training unit

Jörg Fischer from the Black Forest (Germany) developed a new project for the institute's vocational training department which will also be available to hearing young people from the parish. In the Old Hospital they will learn how to prepare food and run a cafeteria/ coffee shop. The cafeteria will be called "Dine and Sign" and the young deaf people who are being trained are expected eventually to be able to manage a cafeteria/ coffee shop themselves.



S.T.R.I.D.E.

(Salt Training and Resource Institute for Disability, Etc.)

Sign language interpreting

Translators/ interpreters are important links that connect deaf and hearing people. Only with the help of interpreters can deaf people participate in public life. Much important information between deaf and hearing people is lost due to a lack of communication skills on both sides. We are very grateful to have competent, valuable translators/ Sign language interpreters such as **Jamil** (English teacher), **Julia** (interpreter), **Tamara** (boarding house supervisor), **Manal** and **Uroub** (both teachers). From time to time they are asked to translate a movie, a church service, a work meeting or conference. Also the police and the public authorities ask every so often for the services of our interpreters. The Sign language unit of the institute continually seeks to train more interpreters. They are much needed at the universities, at doctor's clinics, at public events such as movie festivals, at police stations, and the like. High quality interpreting is more than just a job.



SPECIAL DONATION

Special Donation

We like to thank the Dutch **family Verboom** who changed jobs and left Jordan, leaving behind their Mitsubishi Pajero. We are very happy with this beautiful and strong vehicle, which is ideal for its intended purpose.



The "farm"

Billygoat and some chicken have joined our rooster. The shock seems to have been too great and we now miss his crowing through the night. The chickens are fine and continue laying eggs.

JUBILEE

Our anniversary book

The book about the fiftieth anniversary of the HLID has been published. The title of the beautifully designed book is “A city that cares”. It contains many beautiful, glossy pictures made by the renowned photographer **Guido Dingemans** from the Netherlands. The text, in English and Arabic, about the history of the HLID, the city of Salt, about Jordan and its people, was written by **Br. Andrew** and **Rene Kolsters**. Many different people have a say in the book. Get a copy of the book by contacting the Society “Friends of the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf” now!



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