



# مؤسسة الاراضي المقدسة للصم / السلط

## The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf

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### He who sows generously, will also reap generously.

Second letter to the Corinthians 9,6

Dear Friends,

With the regular Newsletters we try to keep you informed about events at the institute, happy and sad occasions, news about people and children. In this short Newsletter we hope to give you an impression about what the institute IS like and HOW it functions! The second part is the (bi-)ANNUAL BUSINESS REPORT. Our corporate sponsors, as well as some organizations and donors ask for reports like this which tell them WHAT exactly we do. They also get our audited accounts which show that we use their money wisely and well. Please contact us if you are interested in a summary of the accounts.

In my personal letters to you we would like to share WHY we are doing this. At the same time we - staff and students - also want to share with you - our faithful partners and friends – our trials and temptations as well as the many activities that keep us busy. We may be sad when we fail and rejoice in success, but we are always immensely grateful for God's rich blessings.

In their own way deaf Obaidah and blind/aphasic Issa are a wonderful illustration. Obaidah has learned to give and share his abilities and strengths, his mind and the compassion of his heart, which make him a wonderful friend and helper for Issa. Issa shares his vulnerability and what he "has to give" seems little, but it has had a tremendous and positive influence on Obaidah.

I could say the same about the Deafblind unit: Are we a blessing for the 11 Deafblind children and 2 adults? Are they a blessing for us? Do we challenge them or are they a challenge to us? Who is helping whom? The answer probably is that we simply help each other!

I have a notion that somewhere in this direction we'd find answers about the "why" of so-called "disability" and of God's infinite mercy towards us all.

With every blessing, on behalf of children and co-workers,  
Brother Andrew



St. Luke's Chapel for the Deaf, SALT



Deafinitely connected

God provides



## Obaidah

Four years ago, a 14-year old boy arrived at the institute. He made a miserable impression, he was thin and pale and his body language and facial expression said “Please excuse my presence, I just can’t help it that I am me.” Obaidah hardly ever laughed, and seemed a captive in his own little world. He had visited a school for the deaf before, but had learnt very little and could barely sign.

At first he started in seventh grade but soon it became necessary to move him into the ‘special learners’ class with a focus on practical work. He left an impression of being mentally and emotionally delayed. However, during that year Obaidah started to flourish. He practiced Sign language with the small children and had a friend much smaller than him in Kindergarten. At the end of the year, his performance in school was so good, that he could try again in the regular sixth grade. He worked hard and now he is a good eighth grade student. His body posture and behaviour normalized, and now he also has friends of his own age.

In the boarding house Obaidah is responsible for managing the bathroom of the smaller boys. In addition, he works with great pleasure with blind/aphasic Issa, who has great difficulties communicating. Obaidah,s eyes light up when he says “Issa is my friend.” Even though Obaidah himself can’t hear it he tries to make music with Issa as he knows how much Issa loves it. He looks after Issa and guides him if there are obstacles along the way. If Issa’s nose is running or when he is satisfied after a meal, Obaidah notices this immediately. If Issa



Obaidah with Issa

has had a rough night and nobody seems to be able to convince him to get up, Obaidah always finds a way to get Issa moving again. The work with Issa has taught Obaidah many things: to look ahead, to empathise and to concentrate on a task. In other areas, such as in the workshops of the vocational training or in looking after the smaller children, these new qualities help him succeed. Sometimes Obaidah does not find time to eat himself or to get changed as he has so many tasks to complete. We thank God that, in his vulnerability, Issa has awakened so much of Obaidah’s thinking, compassion and personality.



Obaidah in the Vocational Training



## New Overalls for the Vocational Training

Right from the very beginning of the year, there were each Monday morning issues with the overalls for the boys. There simply weren't enough "uniforms" for all students in the vocational training!! The seamstress had repaired them until some of them were only held together with the patches. Luckily, Joshua had expected this and had ordered a new set of overalls. What a relief for the seamstress and what a joy for many of the older boys when they could finally try on their new overalls. To make changing to a larger size easier for the students who quickly outgrow them, the number labels are now replaceable.



Mohammed, Haseeb, Hamzeh, Sharaf and Ghaith...



Ms Na'ameh in the laundry

The boys are responsible for keeping their overalls tidy. For example, if there are paint stains they should clean them immediately with "paint remover". However, some cheeky boys try to get rid of the stains with sandpaper or steel brushes!! The laundry of roughly 100 children, extra clothes of the younger children and the laundry of the staff who live in the institute, have to be washed, dried, mended, folded and possibly ironed. Then the children fetch the baskets of fresh laundry in

order to distribute the clothing in the cupboards of the boarding houses. We do not have full-automatic washing machines as they would use too much water. But there are two big self-built machines and a number of wash-basins for rinsing and soaking with soda like our grandmothers used to do!!

Once again we notice the great efforts of the laundry ladies and the seamstress. Thanks be to God for their friendly, diligent and careful hands.



...in brand new uniforms.

## Woodwork Classes

Because of changes in the requirements for the technology stream of High school education, the girls now also have to learn woodwork skills. After a hesitant start and comments about dust and dirt, the girls now enjoy this subject.



Joshua teaches the girls practical skills and prepares small and interesting projects that fit the curriculum.



Ibrahim, the vocational teacher since 20 years, does the theory and makes sure that the girls follow the lesson plan.



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