



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

“FRIENDS – HELPING CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND”

April 2015 update from the FHL

- **A Happy and Blessed Easter**

It seems no time since it was Christmas. Once again our focus turns to the Holy Land and this time to Jerusalem and the sites of the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord. In the words of the Latin Patriarch; ‘May the Risen Christ guide you and all humanity on the paths of justice, love and peace. May the Risen Lord, the conqueror of sin and death, be a support to you all, especially to the weakest and neediest.’

- **A new year for FHL**

By happy coincidence, Easter marks also the start of a new year for FHL and our challenge once again is to spread our message more widely across all Christian communities in the UK that our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land are in greater need than ever of our help. Peter Rand, FHL Vice-Chairman, writes ‘we need to simply pursue our four objectives – to raise awareness, to encourage prayer, to increase our practical support and to encourage pilgrimage. Below you will read how the structure of FHL over here is being strengthened to provide for another significant growth of the Charity in the next 12 months, within the overall five year strategy agreed last year’.

- **Let’s celebrate the last 12 months**

As mentioned in the March Update, FHL received a surge of donations since Christmas. This has enabled us to dramatically increase our grants to families in the Holy Land. Some of the principle beneficiaries of over £150,000 in March have been:

- Easter presents: 500 of the most needy families known to FHL each received an Easter gift of \$100, with an Easter greeting card.
- Family Support: 30 new Christian families, each of whom have been visited and their needs carefully assessed, have been added to the ‘Family Support’ project, each receiving 500 shekels per month towards essential living costs.
- Hope School Kindergarten in Beit Jala. FHL have granted 22,600 shekels to enable the construction and rehabilitation of a new kindergarten.

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Registered Charity 1130054



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- In Gaza, FHL have committed \$42,000 to fund the employment of 5 young Christians (3 girls and 2 boys) for two years at the Holy Family Parish to undertake a project, which will benefit Christians across the Middle East.
- Also in Gaza, FHL are funding the university tuition (including transportation costs and books) for 10 outstanding students at a cost of \$54,000 for 4 years.
- 24 new emergency medical or house refurbishment projects have been approved, costing over £35,000. A small amount can often have a big impact on the life of a family.

- **Thank you**

All the above has only been possible due to the generosity of 'Friends' like you. Thank you to all the crib box coordinators and the parish group treasurers for collecting in the funds and forwarding to the office. Personal sponsored acts of endurance are always appreciated! Thank you to Elliott Wright, a student for the priesthood from Dewsbury, who completed the Rome marathon and raised £1,440 to date for FHL and also to Rebecca Budd who hiked 800 miles around the perimeter of Shikoku, a Japanese island, raising over £780 for FHL.

- **The Way Forward – FHL Regional Directors**

FHL enjoy support from a wide range of individuals and organisations. As the number grow each year, it is important that there is a regular communication between the Charity and all our supporters. The small central team of FHL employees and volunteers cannot achieve this on their own and we are very grateful for the increase in number of FHL Diocesan Coordinators, nominated by Church of England and Catholic Bishops and our energetic Ambassadors around the country. In order to provide some greater structure FHL are looking for 12 volunteer Regional Directors to cover the UK. They will provide a conduit to the Management Committee, through Vicki, FHL Director of Development, coordinating all of the activity within an area of the country, covering a number of C of E and RC dioceses. Advertisements will be appearing in various national publications within the next few weeks. If you would be interested or know of anyone who might be qualified, please contact Karen Baxter at the FHL Office in Kenilworth.

- **Special Events**

Please do not forget to tell us of any fundraising events that you would like us to advertise in the Monthly Update.

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