

# Supporting the health of West Bank Christians



*FHL beneficiaries from Bethlehem*

## The situation

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Life for Christians living in the West Bank is extremely challenging. Faced with an 18-foot high separation wall, water shortages and an uncertain future for their children, many emigrate if they can. Those who remain face poverty and unemployment as travel restrictions make commerce almost impossible. There is little access to medical and social care and the traditional ways of life, such as farming, are often no longer available to them. For Christians who have health concerns it can be an enormously worrying situation. Medicines can cost 25% of an annual income, and operations as much as five years' income, so it is not surprising that medical cases are the most frequent requests we receive.

## How does FHL help?

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On average FHL spends £50,000 each year supporting individual Christians with medical needs. Local clergy and the FHL Holy Land Committee identify cases. FHL staff make visits to verify and assess needs and make recommendations. Selected cases are referred to the UK for approval. Often we work in partnership with other support agencies and it is not unusual for the individual to contribute towards their medical costs if they can. FHL's simple management structure means decisions and emergency payments can be made within 24 hours if necessary.

## What impact does FHL have?

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FHL is as generous as possible in the pursuit of saving and extending the lives of Christians, and provides support with convalescence so individuals can get back to normal routines as quickly as possible. On average FHL currently supports 180 medical cases each year, but sadly has to turn many away because of a lack of funds.



### Anton's Story

FHL has supported Anton and his family for some time. The family income is not enough to provide for his wife and four daughters. The situation rapidly worsened when Anton, an olive wood carpenter, had an accident at work and damaged his hand and, at first, amputation appeared to be the only option. Naturally, Anton was worried and depressed and the family's prospects looked bleak. Thanks to swift action

by FHL, supported by prayer, Anton had an operation that saved his hand and he was able to return to work. However, he and his family still depend on the FHL programme of family support, which provides them with the equivalent of £100 per month.

### Nemeh's Story

72 year old Nemeh lives alone in Bethlehem and suffers from a combination of health conditions. Whilst agencies like the UN help with medication FHL provides her with a small monthly income to assist with living costs.



### George's Story

George, aged 5, suffered from complex medical problems. His treatment involved being machine fed an expensive milk substitute called Neocate. FHL supported the cost of this prescription, which allowed his transformation from a very poorly child to a happy smiling schoolboy.

## Could you help Christians like these?

FHL exists to support the Christian population of the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan, helping them develop a resilient and enduring community. Unfortunately, the number of Christians requiring help increases daily - so our need for more funds to help more Christians is pressing. To support a needy Christian family costs just £3 a day. Could you help us find a donor, or group of donors, able to raise £90 a month to support a family in this way?

**Financial donations** can be made online by visiting [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk) and clicking the DONATE NOW button. Alternatively, a cheque payable to 'Friends of the Holy Land' can be sent to the address below. Standing order forms are available on our website under 'GET INVOLVED' tab on the 'Donate Money' page, or by contacting the office.

**Volunteer with us:** Volunteers are needed to help in our office in Kenilworth or to speak at events across the country, please let us know if you can help.

### Contact:

Address: Friends of the Holy Land, Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2DH

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