

Christ School Nazareth - Diocese of Jerusalem



Children at Christ School Nazareth, run by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem

The situation

The economic situation facing Arab Christians in Israel is very difficult. Palestinian families in towns like Nazareth face restrictions that limit their employment and their ability to travel to find employment. The result is that many Christian families can no longer afford school tuition fees. The Christ School in Nazareth, run by the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, never refuses entry to any child if the family can no longer afford fees. However, with increasing numbers of Christian families unable to pay the School, the Diocese faces a considerable challenge in bridging this gap.

How does FHL help?

Since 2015 FHL has made grants totalling £20,000 to the Archdiocese of Jerusalem in support of Christian students at the Christ School Nazareth. Sixteen year old Ivan is typical of the children helped. Ivan's father died of cancer whilst Ivan was at primary school. The support FHL provides covers Ivan's school fees and means his mother's extremely modest income, earned as a nursery school assistant, can better support the whole family.

What impact does FHL make?

FHL's support to students at Christ School brings benefit to the Diocese, individual families and the wider community. Accessibility to a Christian education contributes significantly to the security of the Christian community. In addition, the School serves more than 1,600 students from both Christian and Muslim families; academic standards are high and most students go on to university or technical school. FHL funding enables the Diocese to continue to provide medical and educational facilities in places such as Ramallah, Nablus, Jerusalem and Gaza.

Could you support school fees for Christian families?

The Latin Patriarchate and the Anglican authorities are generous in support of Christian families who cannot afford school fees. However, help from FHL is essential to enable the largest number of Christian children to access a Christian education. Church schools make a small tuition charge - not at all comparable with private education in the UK - but this is still too much for many poor Christian families. In addition, it is the first thing to be sacrificed when a family experiences financial hardships. State education in the Holy Land is not suitable for Christian children as there is evidence of pressure on students to convert to Islam or Judaism.

How you could help:

Could you make a monthly gift aided donation of £25? - this would cover an average monthly school fee. Perhaps your church or group could raise £300 to cover the annual fee for one child? At the start of the next academic year FHL expects to be presented with over 200 cases of families needing help with school fees. We urgently need increased funds from more UK Christians to support Christian education in Holy Land.

Financial donations can be made online by visiting www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk and clicking the DONATE NOW button. Alternatively, a cheque payable to 'Friends of the Holy Land' can be posted to the address shown below. Standing order forms are available on our website under the 'Get Involved' tab on the 'Donate Money' page, or by contacting the office.

Volunteer with us: Volunteers are needed to help in our Kenilworth office 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

Email: office@friendsoftheholyland.org.uk

Tel: 01926 512980



Principal Fr. Barhoum with students at Christ School Nazareth



FHL's Peter Rand visits the new media centre