



FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND
GIVING HOPE TO VULNERABLE CHRISTIANS



Monthly Update **April 2019**

Our Prayers for the Holy Land this Easter.

Praying for our Christian family in the Holy Land is one of FHL's key objectives. As we prepare to celebrate the Joy of the Risen Lord at Easter we ask you to remember them in your prayers

The Way of the Cross is a hard road to walk. As we journey with our Lord to the Cross on Good Friday let us remember all His followers who are living in the land where our Saviour lived and died, may they be strengthened in their faith and know that they are not forgotten by their brothers and sisters in Christ.

There are more prayers for each week throughout the year These can be viewed on our website under 'What We Do' or [Click here](#)

Brendan's update.



It is hard to believe over two months have passed since I joined Friends of the Holy Land. I have met many of our passionate and committed supporters around the country who have given me valuable insights as to our activities and how we can help you be more effective in delivering our mission to your local community. Please forgive me if I have not spoken to you yet, I hope to speak to you all soon. I have made a "flying visit" to the Holy Land in March with Peter Rand, our Vice-Chairman for 5 days where I met with most of our project leaders and many beneficiaries. You will see the photos and stories of the visit on our website and social media in coming weeks. Finally we welcomed Charles Gibson our newly appointed Communications and PR Manager to the fold on Monday 15th; we will provide you with a full introduction to Charles in our next newsletter; in the meantime should you need his support, his email is charles.gibson@friendsoftheholylan.org.uk

News from Friends of the Holy Land

We are privileged to be joined by Rev Mark Madden, and Revd Canon David Longe as new Trustees to our board. They bring with them a wealth of personal experience of the Holy Land and we look forward to their valuable insights.

We have also recruited our new Communications and PR Manager Charles Gibson, who will be working with the team to spread the message of our good work. More details about all of our new faces will be found in next month's full newsletter.

Tell us about how you want to support us.

We appreciate all the support you have given us to help provide relief to our vulnerable brothers and sisters. In this time of growing need in the Holy Land caused by the withdrawal of USAID among other things, we face increasing applications for support. Therefore, it is more important than ever that we use effective communications and materials to allow our work here in the UK to grow in terms of awareness, engagement and support. As part of this process we would like your help to better understand your interest in Friends of the Holy Land and how you want to help us. Therefore we would be grateful if you would [complete this short survey](#), which will take no more than 5 minutes, please feel free to provide as much or as little information as you are comfortable, all of your contributions are valuable. Thank you for your continued support. You can [find the survey here](#)

Individual Needs

We continue to provide individual support to our brothers and sisters on a monthly basis for their daily needs and emergency situations. These are given close consideration by our team in Bethlehem, case by case. This month the cases we have supported include:

Assistance with living costs for families suffering loss of income. Including Samer from Bethlehem who lost his job as a driver following an injury.

Providing support for medical bills for families suffering from cancer, cataracts and other medical emergencies. Including Anton a young man who FHL have assisted with the cost of his cancer treatment.



Supporting family carers looking after disabled relatives with their medical and other costs. Including Nadia who needed support looking after her disabled husband.

Our work in Gaza

The blockade, access restrictions on goods and lack of stable market economy has deeply affected the Gaza Strip. According to the World Bank, more than half of the population of Gaza, about 900,000, is poor. This includes around 300,000 people in deep poverty who are unable to cover their needs for food, clothing and housing. Young people in Gaza face particularly bleak prospects, with unemployment rates above 50 percent. Over time, poverty deprives individuals of freedom and opportunities, curbing the potential of young people to develop their capacities, reach their personal goals and contribute to their communities.

It's in these circumstances that entrepreneurship and microbusiness is an emerging alternative form of sustainable employment for Gaza's unemployed. In fact, the Palestinian economy is home to a few, large businesses but mostly based on micro, small and medium enterprises (consisting of 90 percent of all establishments). These establishments are often family-based enterprises of four or fewer employees. One of the main advantages of these small businesses is its adaptability, where business owners can easily adopt 'coping strategies' such as lowering expenditures, resorting to savings, and accessing small amounts of credit, in times of difficulty. A recent study revealed that a majority (62 percent) of young Palestinians

would prefer to establish and work in their own business but only 17 percent of those have been able to achieve their business initiative. The main impediment is the lack of capital and knowledge of small business development.



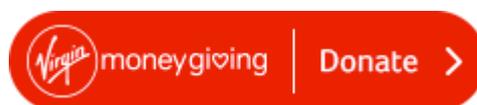
Against this environment, FHL continues to strive to bring hope and create opportunity of employment for young Christians in Gaza. You have previously supported our two year Employment project which provided jobs for 16 young Christians. This was a resounding success and it has been taken up by the Latin Patriarchate as the foundation of their project and expanded to provide jobs for 45 young Christians. FHL is now working with its partners on a pilot programme to assist young Christians in establishing their own micro-business. In this scheme we will fund the training and mentoring of 50 young Christians to be small entrepreneurs; how to create and manage their own businesses, with the goal of creating businesses that can sustain employment for themselves and a small group of employees.

There is a one year training and mentoring programme for the 50 entrepreneurs at the end of which 10 will be judged by our professional team of mentors to have the greatest potential of success and receive seed funding to bring their business plan to life. Naturally as this is the pilot phase of this programme there will be some adjustments to its delivery as we learn from the implementation but we hope this will provide a sustainable future not only to these initial small businesses that are created but to encourage an ongoing stream of young entrepreneurs. With your help we have committed £46,000 to this initial phase.

Without your continued generosity none of this would be possible. Thank you for all your support.

Online payment system up to date.

Our new online payment system is fully up to date and now being run by Virgin Money. Thank you for your patience during this transition and your continued generosity.



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