

Supporting Church Newsletter **December 2017**

Supporting Churches for John Howard, Mission Partner Israel Palestine.

Welcome to the fourth of my Supporting Church Newsletters. Some of you know that I have been unwell and had to return to the UK for an operation. It has gone well and I am soon to return to Palestine. I am very grateful for all the supporting prayers and messages I have received over the last two months. I am looking forward to being back in Bethlehem for Christmas!

John Howard

Living Christianity in the Holy Land

In association with the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network I am arranging an opportunity for those who would like to, to come and see the work I do and the people I work with. If you would like to know more e mail me for further details. (e mail address below.)



Speaking about life in the Middle East.

At the end of August next year (2018) I will finish my time living in Palestine. I will then be available to speak about life in the Middle East. I will be able to speak about the situation in the Holy Land and, following my recent visit to Syria, about the situation inside that country. For two months, September and October, I am asked by the church to dedicate my time in that way, speaking to church communities in Britain. After that time, from November onwards I am also available to give talks, but that will then not be the main focus of my work.

Would you like a speaker or a preacher? I am available to take services, speak to Women's Groups, Guild groups or other fellowship groups – or to come to a church and speak at a one-off event. If you would like to take up this offer, please contact me on the e mail address below, so that we can set a date.



The Hope School Bet Jala (One of the Projects supported by the Jerusalem Liaison Office).

The principal purpose of Hope School is to provide education and boarding for disadvantaged children aged 3-6 and 11yrs-18yrs from the West Bank area. The children come from the neediest of families, and Christian and Muslim alike are brought up in a loving, Christian environment. Some children have been rejected by other schools. At the end of Year 12, the students take the Government School Leaving exams and are encouraged to carry on with further education at University or College.

Children who are unable to stay at home are found sponsors and they are given a stable and safe place to stay in the School's Boarding section and for these, clothes, study materials and 3 hot meals are provided daily.

Hope School's main objective is to continue to provide good education and boarding for children from poor families or who have social problems, free of charge. There are no Government Grants available. Funding comes from individuals, churches and Charities such as: United Methodist Church USA, and a few individual people in Europe and USA. Since the children come from the poorest families, the parents are unable to contribute financially towards school fees, food, clothing etc. The School generates some local income by its small projects: selling olive wood products and selling eggs from its Chicken Farm to restaurants and shops in the area. This income supplies about 10% of the boarder's food costs per year, as well as providing the boarders with fresh eggs.

Hope School is always in need of prayers and support. Your donations and prayers transform marginalised teenagers into successful people in life. Hope School Christian teaching leads them on the right path in life.

(Written by Laila at the Hope School).

To know more about Hope School please visit; www.hopesschoolbeitjala.com

A prayer for the Middle East

Loving Heavenly Father, whose will is peace for all your children, we pray for the troubled part of the world we know as the Middle East. So many conflicts and out of the despair and poverty violence and hopelessness grow.

We pray for Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Egypt and all the countries of the Middle East, lands as old as history itself, and yet lands deeply scarred by the history of empires and colonial attitudes.

May the people of the Middle East find the ways of reconciliation and their leaders the wisdom to seek justice and peace for all the peoples of the world. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

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Do follow my blog at:

Therevdjohnhoward.wordpress.com

The Jerusalem Methodist Liaison Office

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