Dear Friends,

With ongoing global crises, we thank you for your support for Christians in this region. As a crossroads of ideas and merchandise over thousands of years, the Middle East is a key region for world peace. With Jerusalem as a focus city for Jews, Muslims, and Christians, what happens to religious groups in this region stirs up emotions in all parts of the world, emotions that affect individual safety wherever you live.

At this time, the historic Arab Christian presence is vital to the future stability of the region as we put our faith in action, ‘loving our neighbors as ourselves’: teaching interfaith mutual respect and cooperation, empowering women, providing humanitarian medical care regardless of faith or ability to pay, educating Arabic speaking youth assisting children and young adults with special needs and challenges, offering scholarships for children and young adults in financial need, creating professional jobs helping Christians to remain in the region, and enhancing vocational training and job opportunities for a civil society.

At this sensitive time of negotiating peace, our peace and your peace, we invite you to invest in our Christian reconciliation efforts. For, as Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.”

This issue highlights a few of our activities which will increase our ministries and the people we influence in the ways of being good neighbors to one another. I hope you will help us fill needed services with Christian love.
New Anglican Cardio-Vascular Diabetes Clinic in Ramallah, West Bank

We thank God and to the many faithful among UTO, the Diocese of Los Angeles, and all who have made the construction of the new medical clinic possible, we are acquiring the needed equipment to meet the needs of diabetic people in the West Bank. This handicapped accessible clinic is located in new space which has been built above the church hall at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in downtown Ramallah.

This outpatient clinic will focus primarily on treating the complicated consequences of diabetes among the Palestinian people, open to all people regardless of faith. The need is great. It estimated that 10% of Palestinian women suffer from the condition. Vascular health is a critical component for diabetics who require qualified medical staff and the appropriate equipment for diagnosis and treatment.

We invite you to join our friends in the Diocese of Clougher, Ireland who held countless teas and fundraisers to provide the first major pieces of equipment and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem who sent additional support. We still need to purchase the much needed ECHO machine and specialized clinical furniture to make the clinic a reality, so we can begin saving the lives of thousands of people.

Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza continues to serve under harsh conditions

Director Suhaila Tarazi reports that in an area where unemployment is over 40% and seventy percent of families live on less than a dollar a day, Ahli Hospital was able to continue serving the ill poor, the war–injured and war–affected Palestinian women, men and children with the support of countless donors around the world. The services provided include medical care in the out and inpatient departments in general surgical and medical services, as well as mobile outreach clinics in poor neighborhoods and refugee camps. The services are rendered in Christian spirit of love one another and offered to equally to all who are ill regardless of religion, gender, color, social class or political affiliation.

We thank our donors for generous support which makes it possible to cover the high costs of precious medicines, needed services, and vital fuel for generators due to the constant electrical outages, all of which are in short supply. With basic services for fifty beds covered by a grant from UNWRA, Ahli depends on humanitarian grants and the kindness of donors to cover the costs of the additional services provided through outpatient care, nutritional, social and psychosocial programs, and mobile health clinics for people in need. We thank you all.

In Gaza, as elsewhere, we need to strengthen the Christian presence, act as mediators and build peace one relationship at a time. We appreciate and request support for our medical ministries where desperation is exchanged for hope.
Educational ministries in Jordan and Lebanon

Marka, Jordan - Under the leadership of Mr. Ghazi Musharbash, the Schneller School focuses on empowering poor children to lead a productive life. Adjacent to a refugee camp with a boarding department with many orphaned boys, the Schneller School offers a productive future to children who would not otherwise have the opportunities most of us take for granted. An alumnus of the school when it was located in Bethlehem prior to 1967, Mr. Musharbash has worked with business leaders, community members, and alumni to breathe new life into the school.

With income projects just beginning to assist with finances, Mr. Musharbash has many projects still on paper. With plans to increase and promote the Guest House, enhance the vocational programs of the school and upgrade the facilities, the Schneller School will grow in what can be offered to the needy of the area. We thank our partners at EMS in Germany for their focused support in our Schneller School.

Amman, Jordan - Under the new leadership of Haifa Najjar who has long managed our acclaimed Ahliyyah School for Girls, the Bishop’s School in Amman is also undergoing major changes. Teaching practices, student intake and objectives of the school are under review and from September new methods and strategies will be put in place. The ultimate goal is to enable the School to be IB registered. (International Baccalaurate). The English Dept in the Bishop’s School has increased to a total of 8 staff members offering Drama and English Conversation as a further development in the English program both in the Lower and Upper Schools.

With support from alumni, local business leaders, and community members, the School facilities benefited from overdue renovations this summer. Focused on education for future leaders of Jordanian society, our Christian school enhances Jordan’s position in the world as a moderate nation negotiating regional peace.

Irbid and Zarka, Jordan - The Arab Episcopal School in Irbid and the Saviour’s School in Zarka are both among the leaders in Jordan in mainstreaming children with disabilities,
offering education to many who would not otherwise not have access to any. In Irbid, vision impaired children travel many miles, sometimes alone on public buses, to treasured education with sighted children. In Zarka, city children with vision, hearing, and physical challenges benefit from education with neighborhood children. We thank our ecumenical friends in Germany for their support of the Arab Episcopal School and all our donors who support our educational ministries which teach mutual respect and cooperation to Christian and Muslim Arabic speaking children.

Beit Mery, Lebanon – In the mountains overlooking Beirut sits a simple stone building which brings hope and respite to many families. This is where our St. Luke’s Center for Mentally Handicapped Children provides education and boarding facilities for Lebanese children who need special help learning daily living skills, awareness and knowledge, and benefit from vocational training.

Children are referred by the government but parents are not obliged to accept the placement. With volatile tensions between religious groups simmering beneath the progressive façade of Lebanon, Rev. Imad Zoorob, who comes from Lebanon’s southern region, builds trust with the families of these children most of whom happen to be Muslim. With funding from the government at a bare minimum, Rev. Imad works tirelessly to build relationships in his country and abroad, bringing Christians and Muslims together and strengthening the tenuous peace. We thank those who provided support in building the new school after the Lebanese Civil War and welcome those who wish to assist with repairs and improvements, enticing more families to participate in the peace making mission of the Diocese in Lebanon.

A Beacon of Love – The Princess Basma Centre

Jerusalem - High on the Mt. of Olives, the Princess Basma Centre for Disabled Children is a beacon of Christian love in a conservative Muslim neighborhood. Founded in 1965 with support from Princess Basma of Jordan, the Centre has been on the forefront of advocacy, medical, social, and educational support for children with disabilities and their families.
Bringing life, opportunity, and hope to children who would otherwise be left to sit at home, the Princess Basma Centre has also trained and hired adults with disabilities to work in the Centre and serve as inspiring role models for the young.

For young adults in need of closely supervised work, the Basma Centre operates a workshop which specializes in caning and associated woodwork. This workshop provides all the caning needed to maintain our Cathedral chairs.

With a custom prosthesis centre, specialized training for mothers who have babies with disabilities, speech and physical therapy, training for children with cochlear implants, and other specialized services, the Basma Centre continues to strive to be on the forefront of research. Joining in an interfaith international team, the Basma Centre is deeply engaged with research for children with cerebral palsy and entering the field of autism. Your support for this outreach to the most vulnerable of society helps to build respect and peace between neighbors, Christians, Muslims and Jews.

More stories and information are available at: www.j-diocese.org
Inquiries may be directed to: info@j-diocese.org
Donations may be sent to:
The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, PO Box 19122, Jerusalem, 91191

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a diocese of the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over five countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Israel, within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. There are 27 parishes that minister to the needs of their communities, centered on the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr in Jerusalem. The church supports 33 institutions, which include hospitals, clinics, kindergartens and schools, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for the deaf, the disabled and the elderly, reaching out to interfaith neighbors in mutual respect and cooperation.