

THE DIYAR CONSORTIUM



ANNUAL REPORT 2007



THE DIYAR CONSORTIUM

“We are not poor, we are made poor, through a system of political, social and economic injustice.”

It was with these words that Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, President of the Diyar Consortium, opened his speech at the Human Rights Defenders Forum held at the Carter Center in Atlanta in September 2007.

He continued: “If you look today at the West Bank it looks like a piece of ‘Swiss cheese’. Israel gets the cheese and the Palestinians are pushed into the holes. Israel has taken the land, the water and natural resources, and most of the tourist sites. Through that system we are made poor. So twenty years from now we will have overpopulated, crowded areas with no room to grow, no economy to sustain us, and not much to hope for. These circumstances destroy the social fabric of our society and lead people into despair. People here look for a refuge in a life after death, but can’t believe in a life before death that is worth living here and now.”

And yet, within this context, a new vision statement was developed for the Diyar Consortium: **“that we might have life, and have it abundantly”**.

This vision is the foundation upon which the organizations of the consortium are built. It is through the diverse programs and institutions of the Consortium that we are creating the space for growth, nurturing the seeds of a strong culture and a sustainable economy, mending the torn social fabric, and helping people to create, for themselves, lives full of active hope for a better future.

Helping Diyar to live out its mission are a number of new staff. In fact, Diyar hired half of its current staff in 2007, bringing Palestinians from abroad back home to Bethlehem, hiring recent university graduates, and welcoming international supporters, whose presence in Bethlehem is a powerful witness to the compelling work of the Diyar Consortium and its component institutions. Diyar is now the third largest private employer in the Bethlehem area, with plans to grow even more in 2008.



THE DIYAR CONSORTIUM IS...

THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF BETHLEHEM

Three Institutions Under One Roof

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THE AD-DAR CULTURAL & CONFERENCE CENTER



The highlights of 2007 include performances by renowned Palestinian singer **Reem Banna** (top), theatre and musical ensembles as part of **Austrian Cultural Week** and the **Palestine Mozart Festival** (actors in *The Magic Flute*, second), and young Palestinian and Swedish artists during the third annual summertime **Dandanat Festival** (third).



Audiences totalling **11,348 people** attended events at Ad-Dar in 2007. Most exceptional were the screenings of popular Egyptian movies like *Omar & Salma* and *Taymoor & Shafeeka*, which, along with six others, brought over 4,000 visitors to Dar Annadwa.



The variety of Palestinian musical acts was very impressive: from **Shibat's** rock 'n' roll (bottom) to the hip-hop stylings of Lod-based rap group **Dam**, to the modern Oriental music of Akka's **Walla'at** group and traditional oud of **Wissam Mourad**.



The **Al-Harah** and **Al-Hakawati** theatre groups engaged the emotions and imaginations of their audiences in original pieces which play out classic themes in modern contexts, and are informed by the players' views through their uniquely Palestinian lens.

“God's Reign and People's Rule” was the theme of the 4th Intercultural Conference, held at the ICB from August 26 – September 1. In attendance during the course of the conference were four current and former ministers of the Palestinian government, prominent professors and theologians from Germany, the USA, Brazil and Palestine, and many friends and supporters of Dar Annadwa from 12 countries, 4 continents, and several religious backgrounds.

The Ad-Dar Hall is also the setting for many community events, including graduation ceremonies, Easter and Christmas celebrations, lectures, and workshops. We take pride in being a meeting space *in Bethlehem, for Bethlehem.*



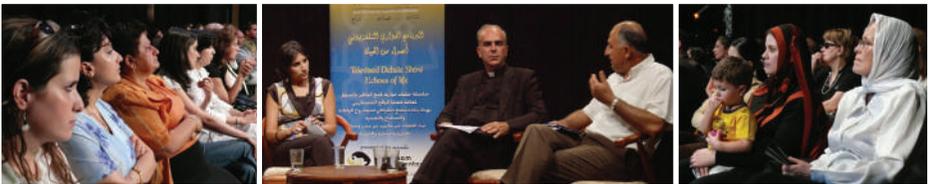
AD-DAR EVENTS FOR 2007

JAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerts Film screening Theater event Dance Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESNMC Orchestras and Jerusalem Choir (1); Ionnis Potamouis & Guest Soloists “Yacobian Building” “Born in Bethlehem” Dance Show (who performed?) Methodist Church Conference
FEB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerts Film screenings Theater event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dam (Rap); Wissam Matanis (genre?) “Palestine” (short documentary) Our Diaries Through the Wall
MAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerts Film screening Circus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hopkinson Smith; Manfred Siebald “She Made Me a Criminal” Circus Show
APRIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerts Film screenings Easter event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Palestine Mozart Festival (2); German Gospel Choir; Mohsen Subhi (genre?) “The Passion of the Christ”; 2 French films; 2 Irish films Al-Harah Theater Company
MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerts Film screening Special event Graduation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Concert; German Violinist “The Hostage” Austrian Cultural Week Dar Al-Kalima
JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerts Film screening Theater event Children’s event Graduation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESNMC (piano); Valentina Mustafa (opera); Wissam Mourad (oud) (3) “The Hostage” Ashtar / Theatre for the Oppressed Bright Stars Bethlehem Bible College
JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concert Theater event Book reading Special events Private events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victor Kawwas & Johnny Zreneh (guitar) “All My Sons” Johannes Zang Dandanat (4, 7); Manfred Leuchter & El Funoun (part of the Palestine International Festival for Dance & Music); Bright Stars Summer Academy celebration Summer Camp (CRS)
AUG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film screenings Private events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Justified Betrayal”; “Fake Trap” “God’s Reign & People’s Rule” (5); YMCA
SEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concert Film screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walla’at (modern Oriental) “Omar and Salma”
OCT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerts Film screening Kids’ theater event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESNMC; Reem Banna “Taymoor and Shafeeka” “The Little Lantern”
NOV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film screenings Theater event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bright Stars Film; “Morgan Ahmad Morgan” Al-Hakawati: “Memory for Forgetfulness” (6)
DEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerts Film screening Christmas event Private event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norwegian Group; Shibab; Ailabuni Group “Jerusalem... The East Side Story” Al-Harah Theater Company Finnish National Day



THE BETHLEHEM MEDIA CENTER

The Bethlehem Media Center (BMC) produces media for both local and international audiences. The debate shows taped at the BMC studios are broadcast on 10 local television stations around the West Bank, reaching an estimated 1.2 million potential viewers. In this series of debates, entitled VIVA VOX: “Echoes of Life”, the topics included Christian institutions and social work, Christian Palestinian women, youth emigration, inter-religious marriage, the relationship between “religion” and “state” in the Palestinian context, and Christians and the Islamic Movement. Some of the shows have been so popular that they have been rebroadcast 3 times on the same stations, and in 2008 we hope to release the shows for broadcast on an additional 8 local television stations in Palestine.



The BMC has produced a series of 12 reports on Palestinian Christian heritage, documenting Palestinian culture in celebrating Christian feasts, to be aired on the Sat7 satellite channel. Sat7 reaches viewers in the Middle East, North Africa, Europe, Asia & Australia.

Other documentary productions included a 3-part series on the disabled in Palestine, and a film about the Dar al-Kalima College, in cooperation with Philip Hohle from Concordia University in Texas, which should be available on DVD in March 2008.

Works in progress include “It’s Pal-esTIME”, a 12-minute film about the city of Bethlehem and its cultural heritage, people and history, and “Dandanat 2007”, a short film documenting the Dandanat International Youth Music Festival.

Further expanding our outreach are the live uplinks that allowed congregations in Bethlehem and at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, to worship together during Advent, and for viewers around the world to watch the Christmas Eve service live from Christmas Lutheran Church.



"THE CAVE" - THE GALLERY

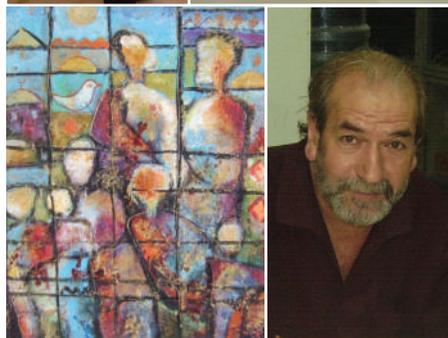
International encounters through art and media

Eighteen exhibitions, featuring a kaleidoscope of artistic techniques, delighted and engaged those who visited the Cave Art Gallery and the ICB lobby in 2007.

The variety of artwork was extensive: oil, watercolor and gouache paintings, glass art, colored drawings, prints, mixed media, photography, batik, Palestinian embroidery, and calligraphy on silk and on stained glass all featured in various exhibitions through the year. There were 6 group exhibitions, and 12 solo exhibitions from 6 Palestinian and 6 international artists.

Four of the DAK/ICB art teachers exhibited work in the gallery. Yousef Rajaby's work (top) was displayed in the "Transparent" glass art exhibition, and Faten Nastas's (second) was featured in "Keep Hope Alive", where all artworks related to the olive tree. Inger Jonasson gave a watercolor exhibition showing "Colorful Palestine", and Taleb Dweik's mixed media exhibition, "Waiting", rounded out a successful 2007 gallery year.

Finally, the "Flying Carpet" art conference, conducted via streaming video over the Internet, brought artists from Bethlehem and Boston together to talk about art, "face-to-face".



"THE CAVE" - THE WORKSHOPS

One of the strengths of the ICB's model of art production is that everything, from design to crafting to marketing, is done in-house.

The ICB workshops teach artisans new skills to create their artworks or improve their techniques, give them space and access to materials, and also provide a venue for the sale of their products. In this way, we support both the cultural and economic sides of art in Bethlehem: encouraging traditional methods and new designs, and helping the artists draw a livelihood from their work.



In addition to individual artists' efforts, there are groups of artisans who meet at the ICB to work together in community. One group is the liturgical textiles group, who embroider stoles and paint silk hangings for use in churches around the world. Designs are inspired by scripture and influenced by local traditions & aesthetics.



Encouraging young artistic talent is one of the core objectives for the art program at the ICB. Visiting British artist Paula Cox gave a workshop for children from the ICB Bright Stars program and the SOS Children's Village, illustrating the articles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child. (right).

"The Cave" also collaborates with the Dar al-Kalima College to give art students practical experience in art design and production.



"THE CAVE" - THE GIFT SHOP



Our products are popular at many bazaars held in Bethlehem, the West Bank, Israel, and worldwide. This year we participated in the Olive Harvest Bazaar in Manger Square, as well as holiday bazaars for the US Embassy and Consulate in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Items from our shop also decorated the largest Christmas tree in Berlin, Germany.

Kind words from our supporters...

I wanted to let you know that I just received the stoles--and they are more impressive in real life than even their photos had been! Please pass on my thanks to those whose fingers must have worked so hard to make such beautiful garments. I am honored to wear their embroidery and to have their time and labor be a part of our life in Connecticut. - Joel, USA

I have never seen such beautiful angels before. I got one from a friend, and it's hanging in my kitchen window so I can see the angel every day. It reminds me that I believe, I hope with my whole heart that peace will one day be in Palestine. - Lars-Olaf, Sweden

Artwork featured on this page (clockwise from top): fused glass candleholder - Faten Nastas Mitwasi, hand-painted Christmas card (background) - Rana Bishara, silver olive leaf pendant - Nadia Abu Ghattas, calla lily rings - Nadira Il-Araj, stained glass dove - Samer Dibs

The gift shop at the ICB is always working with and encouraging our local artisans to come up with new ideas for every season.

With new items like the hand-carved Jerusalem Stone nativity sets, and new designs in stained glass, silver jewelry and Christmas cards, both our shopfront on Paul VI Street in Bethlehem and our online shopfront on the ICB website are filled with unique and beautiful things.

Our best-selling item this year was the stained glass peace dove (pictured below), though the stained glass angel ornaments also continue to be popular Christmas gifts. The silver olive leaf jewelry is a trademark of "the Cave", attracting attention from individual buyers and specialty shops around the world.



AUTHENTIC TOURISM

“Come and See” the Bethlehem of today with the Authentic Tourism Program

Students, fact-finding delegations, congregations, municipal representatives, and humanitarian and medical delegations were among the groups who visited the Holy Land through the ICB’s Authentic Tourism Program in 2007. Seminary students came to explore the original context of the Bible and experience the current realities of the Holy Land. Congregations of all denominations sought to learn more about peace and justice in the Middle East, and connect further with the “living stones” - the Palestinian Christians who live here. The groups visiting were mainly from the United States, comprising 68% of the visitors. Groups from the UK were second, with 14%, followed by 9% from Germany. The rest came from countries such as Japan and Norway.

The preferred accommodation for many of our guests is in the Abu Gubran Guest House, located inside the ICB complex. The *Lonely Planet* guidebook mentions us, saying “most hotel rooms in Bethlehem are nondescript or downright drab, unless you’re in the Jacir Palace Inter-Continental or *Dar Annadwa*”... “a Lutheran-sponsored boutique guest-house with all the amenities.”

The occupancy rate at the Abu Gubran Guest House was 30.1% in 2007, compared to 25.2% in 2006. Overall, the number of visitors through the Authentic Tourism program increased only by 10% over 2006, but these numbers are impacted by the 2006 Lebanon War and the cancellations in early 2007 (usually the high season) due to that conflict.

We hope that in 2008 more visitors will come to Bethlehem and Palestine, but this depends on the political situation. Please keep us in your prayers.

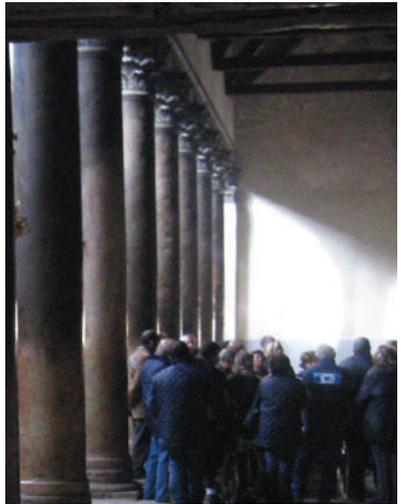


image © Philip Hohle 2007

Learning about Palestinian culture and context through...

- visiting the Tuwani village, where families deal with harassment from the surrounding settlements
- meeting residents of Deheishe and learning about life in the refugee camps
- sharing meals with members of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem



BRIGHT STARS & THE EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAM (ECP)



Offering school-year afternoon activities to students at the Dar al-Kalima School and children from the Bethlehem area are the Extra-Curricular Program (ECP) and the Bright Stars Program, respectively.



ECP Clubs

Classes (1-5)	
Club Name	#
Story Telling	25
Art Crafts	60
Swimming	82
Music & Singing	30
Small Games	15
Environment	19
Classes (6-11)	
Club Name	#
Table Tennis	36
Basketball	30
Handcrafts	18
Recycling Paper	5
Creative Writing	11
Computer Skills	31
Swimming	21
Dabkeh	10
Music	8
Guitar	7
Piano	4
Flute	4
Volleyball	19
Environment	10
Painting & Arts	17
Electronic Magazine	2
Unicycling	5
German Drama	12
Football	34
Aerobic Dance	18

The Bright Stars Program runs on a cycle, allowing successive “classes” of students to progress in their area of interest. New clubs this year include the fashion design club, boys’ and girls’ soccer, and table tennis, in addition to the ongoing clubs for swimming, karate, drawing, and drama.

One of the highlights of the year was the second-place finish for the Bright Stars swim team at the national swim meet. This was the first year of competition for the team, and their strength against the other more established teams gives them hope of placing first in 2008.



THE BRIGHT STARS SUMMER ACADEMY

“Sayfak Yeb’lah Ma’ana Ahla”
“Enrich and Enjoy Your Summer With Us”

June 25 - July 27, 2007 ☞ Dar al-Kalima School



Arts & Crafts: Glass Mosaic, Glass Fusing, Ceramics, Drawing & Painting, Sculpture, Bead Jewelry-Making, Scientific Arts, and Recycling Arts

IT & Communications:

MS Office, Web Design, Internet & Email, Graphic Design, Photography, Video Filming & Editing, Clay Animation, Journalism, and Creative Writing

Sports: Self Defense, Swimming, Volleyball, Football/Soccer, Basketball, Table Tennis, Unicycling and Sports Games

Performing Arts & Music:

Palestinian Folk Dance (Dabke), Break Dance, Latin Dance, Vocal Training, Theatre & Drama, Rap Music, Musical Instruments, Hand Bells, Storytelling, and Expressive Art

Other: Chess, Games, and Environmental Issues

The 2007 Bright Stars Summer Academy provided enriching educational activities to 289 children from the Bethlehem area.

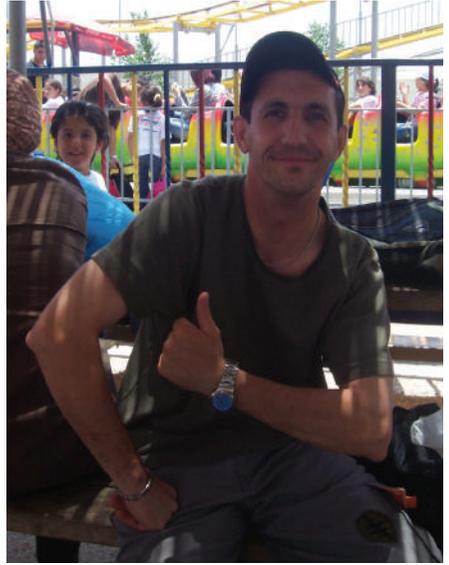
Gender: M (58%) / F (42%)
Religion: ☩ (70%) / ✝ (30%)
Home: Town (70%)
Village (17%)
Refugee Camp (13%)

Participants chose 4 clubs from nearly 40 options (list at left).



Summer Academy activities also included four weekend day-trips and an end-of-summer celebration where the participants in the different clubs showed their work or performed on-stage at the Ad-Dar Hall at the ICB. The overall goal of the Summer Academy is for the youth to learn new skills, develop their personalities, grow in hopes and ambitions, and have fun.

In addition to the nearly 300 children participating in the Bright Stars Summer Academy, a team of over 50 organizers, expert trainers and volunteers guided and led the activities. Eighteen Palestinian young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 took this opportunity to develop their skills in leadership, communication and management, while helping to make the Summer Academy experience fulfilling and fun for both the kids and the volunteers alike.



PALESTINIAN CHRISTIANS: STRENGTHENING IDENTITY, ACTIVATING POTENTIAL

A new initiative of the ICB, launched in November and headed by longtime Palestinian human rights activist **Rifat Kassis**, is forging a path toward a strategic plan for increasing Christian engagement in Palestinian civil society.



The aim of the PC:SIAP project is to develop a comprehensive joint strategy and action plan for Christianity *not only to survive, but to thrive* in Palestine. Due in large part to the hardships of the Israeli occupation, high rates of Christian emigration threaten to diminish the Christian presence in Palestine. We believe that if the Christian community was more aware of the resources that they have collectively, and had a definite direction in

which to focus their collective efforts and energies, then the Christian presence in Palestine might be strengthened, helping to stem the emigration of Palestine's best and brightest.

Together with our project partners, our first objectives are to investigate and map Palestinian Christian communities and organisations in the West Bank, and gather information from Palestinian Christians on their resources, needs, hopes and concerns. Later stages of the initiative will bring community leaders together to develop a strategic vision and provide leadership training for the next generation of agents of social change.

The project is headed by Mr. Rifat Odeh Kassis, who has recently come to join us at the ICB. Mr. Kassis is the president of the international council of Defence for Children International, and worked most recently in Geneva with the World Council of Churches.



THE ICB AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Since May 2006, the computer lab at the ICB has been an official Prometric testing center for IT qualifications (Microsoft, HP, Cisco and Oracle), and as of November 2007, the IBT **TOEFL test** for students wishing to study in English-speaking countries. Prior to our accreditation, students had to travel to Ramallah in order to take this test, so students from the southern West Bank now face one fewer obstacle to fulfilling their educational and professional goals.



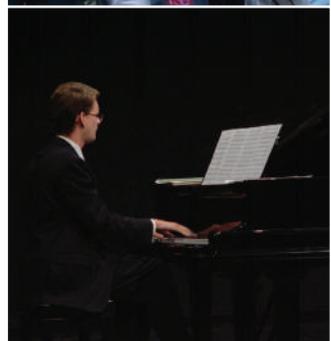
Every week, the **Youth Leadership Team** gathers together for meetings and discussions on topics that help young Palestinians to understand the sociopolitical contexts in which they live, and to grow together in support and fellowship. The Leadership Team is dedicated to providing a holistic and integrated system of human resource development for the creation of committed, pro-active and creative Palestinian leaders.

Discussion topics in 2007 included:

- Leadership styles and characteristics
- Islamization in the modern and postmodern eras
- Decision making
- Youth and the Church
- Living faithfully
- Themes and youth perspectives in popular movies & television
- Homosexuality as a taboo in Arab culture
- Arab immigration (special sessions with community leaders and immigrants on a YLT trip to Germany)
- Lectures on the politics and political parties in Palestine by Dr. Walid Atallah, storytelling through documentary film by Hanna Elias, and on Sunnah and Shi'a by Dr. Nuha Khoury



Music at the International Center of Bethlehem seeks to enliven volunteers and audiences by celebrating the reality and grace of God. We do this through a five-pointed program: the Chorus, Choristers, Handbells, Band and Chamber Ensemble. Three ensembles recorded music for the documentary, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, which was aired in the UK on Christmas Morning. The music program of Dar Al-Kalima College was accredited by the Palestinian Authority to offer two-year diplomas in music performance; it is now the first college to offer music degrees in Bethlehem.



THE DAR AL-KALIMA HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER

*New staff and new programs
made 2007 a year of growth for
the Health & Wellness Center.*

Eight new staff members joined the team, serving as instructors, trainers, physical therapists, lifeguards and receptionists.

The “Fit For Life” and Ajyal 1 & 2 programs provided medical and wellness support for adults and the elderly.

The medical ministry of the Health & Wellness Center continued strongly, with our audiology clinic starting an outreach clinic in Ramallah in cooperation with the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem.

HEALTH

Now in its fourth year of operation, our **audiology clinic** continues to achieve remarkable results. In 2007, our audiologist responded to 3900 appointments, many for regular hearing tests but others for dizziness testing and hearing aid fitting. 400 hearing aids were fitted this year, but there remain over 600 needy children in the southern West Bank who require them.

The **endocrinology clinic**, originally intended to primarily serve diabetic patients, had over 70% of its patients referred for treatment of thyroid disorders. Outreach to diabetic patients in the Bethlehem area, and the “Fit For Life” program in particular, will hopefully increase our level of service to area diabetics.

The **nutrition clinic** served 140 clients in 2007, and assisted with the Ajyal and Fit For Life programs run by the HWC.

Our **psychotherapy clinic** endeavors to raise public awareness about mental health, holds training sessions for local social workers and psychotherapists, and offers counseling for individuals and groups. The clinic served over 100 clients in 2007. Workshops introduce trainees to new psychotherapy techniques, and the Art of Living seminars promote healthy living through self-development and self-knowledge.



WELLNESS

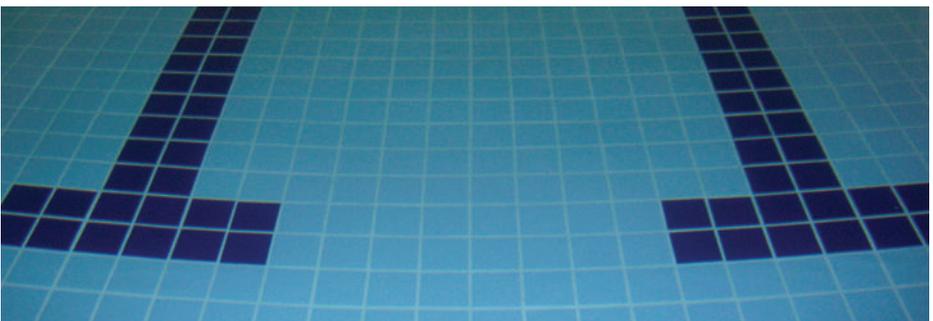
“**Fit For Life**” is a prevention and awareness program directed particularly toward adult women in Bethlehem. Its aim is to encourage women to adopt healthy lifestyles and prevent chronic diseases associated with obesity through recreation (including swimming, yoga and sauna), group nutrition counseling, and health education classes. Fitness training and awareness raising through a radio show augment the program’s effectiveness.



A **swimming training and lifeguard certification course** was held at the HWC in November, in cooperation with the Palestinian National Swimming Union. The intensive course attracted 16 participants, 9 young men and 7 young women, who passed the examination and will now be allowed to work as lifeguards.



By offering training to young people in skills such as lifeguarding, we are not only helping them to gain employment, but we are promoting a culture of professionalism in the field of health and wellness.



COMMUNITY CARE: AJYAL

Since its start in late 2006, the Ajyal program has expanded from a group of 14 to a group of 760, with members from Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour, and care recipients in 13 villages in the Bethlehem governorate.



This year, the AJYAL 2 program reached more than 600 elderly people in rural Bethlehem with the support of a USAID grant, administered through the CARE International Emergency Assistance Program. Home visits included health screenings, health education, and psychosocial support. The program also included several community and social events, and meal distribution to the needy elderly.

Through these visits, we were able to collect data about the elderly people in the villages surrounding Bethlehem, giving us a better understanding about the prevalence of certain health conditions, which in turn will help us to serve them better.



The Ajyal activities for 2007 included:

- 7 health education events and 4 health screening events
- Monthly meetings to discuss topics of religion and spirituality, led by local clergy members
- Monthly gatherings to share a meal and have time for recreational activities and Bingo
- Yoga and relaxation sessions with psychotherapist Beate Niedermeier
- Special celebrations for Christmas, Easter, Mothers' Day and World Elderly Day, featuring special meals and entertainment
- Seasonal trips to locations around the West Bank and Israel, including Jericho and the Galilee



COMMUNITY CARE: AZWAJ

The Azwaj (“Young Families”) program was developed with the vision of empowering young families to be active in the community, and meeting their social, spiritual, educational, and recreational needs.



Azwaj activities in 2007 included...

A **3-day conference**, held in Jericho, organized by a local family counselor and attended by 20 families.

An **awareness meeting** held by an educational psychologist, who encouraged open discussion to address questions and concerns.

Two **awareness lectures** held by visiting American specialists on the topics of obesity in children and youth, and sexual education.

The capstone event for 2007 was the **Christmas dinner celebration**, which entertained over 30 families - six of whom had recently fled the ongoing conflict and deprivation of the Gaza Strip and settled in the Bethlehem area. At the ICB's Il-Iliyah restaurant, the couples enjoyed a delicious dinner in a lovely atmosphere, with a live performance of Christmas carols by the Bethlehem Star Choir. Meanwhile, 50 children from the Azwaj families were entertained and presented with Christmas gifts by a troupe of clowns, after enjoying a special kids' meal.



“The program has lowered the daily pressure that we go through, and gives us a bit of motivation and optimism. Our kids enjoy the program and always talk about joining its activities.” -Juliana (mother of 3)

“Azwaj is very nice. We get to meet new kids and play with them. We have lots of fun there, since we don't go out much and we get bored at home.” -Natalie (12)



“I see a great social benefit for my family in attending these activities, as we get introduced to new people and the kids can enjoy their time too. We usually go home and discuss the topics that had been presented in the awareness meetings. My wife and I have changed the way we deal with the kids and their issues. So far there has been more family talk and better tools to solving our problems.” -Yousef (father of 2)



THE DAR AL-KALIMA COLLEGE

By far, the largest endeavor of 2007 has been the start of construction on the new hilltop campus building for the Dar al-Kalima College.

Classes in film and glass & ceramics currently meet in the ICB complex in Madbasseh Square, but we hope that by the 2009 academic year the new buildings will be built and outfitted to serve our growing student body. With one class progressing to their second year of studies and the admission of a new group of first-year students, we have effectively doubled the number of attendees. With the development of new academic programs and the hiring of qualified new teaching staff, the Dar al-Kalima College is poised to become a leader in higher education in Palestine.



MULTIMEDIA

Students at Dar al-Kalima College have been active in documentary film production, independently and in cooperation with the Bethlehem Media Center (BMC). As part of their coursework, they create films that explore issues in Palestinian society and celebrate Palestinian heritage.

Students also have work experience opportunities with the BMC, such as helping to facilitate live uplinks and simulcasts of church services at the Lutheran church this past Christmas.



image © Philip Hohle 2007

Further supporting the standards of excellence at Dar al-Kalima are the partnerships it has established with the fine arts departments at the University of Colorado in Boulder, the Royal College of Stockholm, and L'E.N.S.A.V. (La Cambre) in Brussels.



ARTS

The ICB and the DAK College work together to encourage the arts by linking college students with professional artists in the workshops.

College students receive instruction from working artists, and also have the opportunity to practice in the workshops and contribute to the production of commissioned artwork.

The largest commission this year was for a series of stained glass windows for the Catholic Action Center. Another high-profile commission came from the Sat7 satellite channel, for 500 miniature ceramic plates, to celebrate the Christmas season. Students' work can also be seen at festivals and in private homes throughout the area.



Through international partnerships and generous donations from individuals and organizations in Palestine and abroad, the Dar al-Kalima College is able to offer both need-based and merit-based financial aid to students.



Visiting artists and lecturers add to the educational enrichment the students receive at the College. American artist David Young led workshops on portfolio creation and storytelling through digital photography, while his wife, Sweet, led a quilting group. Hungarian artist Barbara Guttman taught an intensive course in Contemporary Fine Art.



A WORD OF THANKS...

We give heartfelt thanks to all our supporters around the world, and especially to:

ANERA

BMW

Bright Stars of Bethlehem

Church of Scotland

Church of Sweden Mission

Church of Westfalia

DED

FELM

Foerderverein Dar al-Kalima

Finnish Foreign Ministry

Healing Across the Divides

LWR

Studiosus Foundation

Wheat Ridge Ministries



From June to September 2007, the PricewaterhouseCoopers international auditing firm conducted a study of the financial practices of several church-related organizations (CROs) in Palestine. They gave the Diyar Consortium their highest rating, reporting that Diyar's "practices and policies comply with IFRS requirements".

We are proud to have received such a commendation, and happy to offer this assurance to our supporters.



To support our ministries financially, please contact our office in your area:

In North America: Bright Stars of Bethlehem - USA

www.brightstarsbethlehem.org

In Europe:

Foerderverein Dar al-Kalima - Germany

www.daralkalima.de

In Scandinavia:

Betlehem Venner - Denmark

www.betlehem-venner.dk

Or visit our website for instructions on how to donate online:

www.annadwa.org



Embroidery by:

Alia Dibes (pp 14-15, 20-21)

Hala Williams (pp 2-3, 6-7, 10-11)

All other embroidery exhibited
in the Gallery by Vivi Siniora

Reports submitted by:

Muayad Alayan

Ghada Araj

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