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Nazareth PROJECT, INC.

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A practical work of healing and reconciliation in Jesus' hometown

Spring Update, April 2015

Helping a Young Girl's Dreams Come True... West Bank Outreach

Nazareth Hospital's work in a Bedouin area of the West Bank can be best illustrated by the story of a little girl named Besan.

Besan is 8 years old and lives with her family in a tent, which is located in the area called "Al Maleh" in Area C of the West Bank. This tent, part of a community of 13 villages, has already been demolished three times, and the family has little hope that there will not be a fourth time. The villagers living in this network of tents are from the Northern Valley of the West Bank, where their homes were destroyed in the 1967 war, and since that time they have had to choose either to leave or live in tents. The original population consisted of 5,000 families who were displaced, and now 450 families remain.

Where they live there is no electricity, no water or infrastructure to support the communities, and building is forbidden. There are no schools for the area, so the small number of children who choose to pursue their education can only get to school by crossing an army checkpoint, where they may or may not be allowed to cross. Area C is fully under the control of Israel, though the citizens are Palestinians of Bedouin descent, and no medical service is provided in the area either by Israel or the Palestinian Authority. The only service being provided at the present time is that provided by the Nazareth Hospital.

Living in this situation, this young girl doesn't think about school and what bag to take and what books to buy. Instead she has to think about whether she will be able to get to school at all, through the system of military checkpoints.

In addition to these difficulties, Besan has been disabled from birth, a result of a problem in her legs. She is unable to walk. Living where she does, Besan had never been seen by a doctor to determine the cause of her condition. Four months ago, as a part of the work of the Nazareth Hospital in Area C, one of our doctors saw her for the first time. From this meeting, our dream has been to see her walk.



Talk to us about SERVE Nazareth!

SERVE Nazareth participants encourage and empower Christian ministries working to overcome the challenges faced by this vital, yet often overlooked, Middle Eastern Christian community.

This life-changing experience, becoming the hands and feet of Christ in His hometown, breaks down barriers, increases understanding, and inspires a new vision and passion for His service.

Jesus Trail Hike 2015 will be part of the events celebrating the SERVE program's first 5 years. SERVE program events will take place November 14 & 15, with the hike from November 14-21st. Contact us for further details.

Trail hikers and their supporters will support an increasingly vulnerable Christian community in the Middle East through the SERVE Nazareth program.



Photos courtesy of The Nazareth Trust

Outreach to children in the West Bank: How The Nazareth Project is Helping:

The Nazareth Project works to raise grants funds to help Nazareth Hospital improve its services to infants and children. In 2015-16 this focus will be two-fold: Renovations to the Pediatrics department and equipment and supplies for the Hospital's outreach to children in Area C of the West Bank. (61% of West Bank land is part of Area C, which is under Israeli security and civil administration).

Weekly, a pediatrician travels from Nazareth to see sick children in underserved areas of the West Bank. Practitioners need more basic medical supplies and better diagnostic equipment to aid their field work. Currently, doctors are able to conduct preliminary assessments and provide referrals for further testing. They also assist families in applying for permits to enter Israel, so that children can reach Nazareth Hospital for surgery or further treatment that they cannot access where they live.

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Photos courtesy of The Nazareth Trust

Besan's Dream! Continued

Besan is one of 12 children in the family. Her father herds goats in a place where both the summer and winter months are harsh, and their life in their tent is constantly under threat.

Yet Besan is a strong girl. She decided that despite her disability and the difficulties she experiences she would get to school and study. And she also dreams of walking. Often our dreams may not be allowed or may not be possible, but she has allowed herself to dream like this.

Seeing her determination, the staff of the Hospital that works in this area believe with her, and have taken on her dream of walking. Our challenge now is to bring her to Nazareth, so that she can undergo testing and treatment to help her realize her dream.

2015-16 will be The Nazareth Project's 25th year!

As we dust off old letters and records, we are moved by the NPI story, one of many people working together in many ways, to make a difference. It is a beautiful story, made possible by God's Love.

We thank God for each person who has been helped and healed through Nazareth Hospital and School of Nursing. We will be celebrating this anniversary by telling the stories of former hospital volunteers, long-time supporters, and through a collection of beautiful photo essays, introducing you to some of the people of the Hospital and School staff and student body. Stay tuned for these stories.

Through major grants and initiatives, we support Nazareth Hospital and School of Nursing. Your gift to our operations helps us devote more time and energy to securing the resources they need to continue their unique healing and teaching ministry.

Will you help us with a gift this spring?

God's path to Italy and back to Nazareth

Samir knew God had a plan for him – but as a young man he couldn't quite work out what the plan was. Now, with the help of our School of Nursing, he's found his way – and his calling.

“My calling is to become a missionary nurse, not just an ordinary nurse. I think this is how I can become a well-rounded human as well as a Christian.”

At first, Samir thought God wanted him to be of service directly by becoming a monk. So he travelled thousands of miles to Italy to train at a monastery – only to find the answer on the doorstep at his family home in Nazareth.

“It was always my dream to serve people and I gained two valuable years' experience in Italy when I was preparing to become a monk. But I knew it wasn't right.”

“I decided it was my duty to care for people and, becoming a nurse, will allow me to serve more directly than if I was a monk - letting me fulfill both of my dreams.”

“I believe it is God's calling for me to become a nurse and serve people in sickness and in health.”

Having returned from Italy with a fresh outlook on life, Samir applied to a number of nursing schools, but chose the Nazareth School of Nursing. He believes that studying at the School and becoming a nurse is ideal for him, as it allows him to develop spiritually and show his compassion for people.

Samir has started a worship group with other nursing students. Commenting on the times of worship and fellowship with others, he says, “This brings me a happiness that is bigger than I am and a stillness that I cannot explain.”

Samir has been impressed by the way staff at the School of Nursing care for and help their students. “Course coordinators gather those who may be under-achieving to help them overcome issues they may be having, while course directors discuss with students the best ways to study and prepare for difficult exam periods.

“It is a great place to train because of all the love and support you find there.”

Samir is sure he's made the right decision to train at the School of Nursing.

“In Nazareth, just a few steps away from home, I feel people need me. They encourage me and praise the Lord with me. For me, this is a great indicator that I am heading in the right direction.”



Samir with student worship group

Nazareth School of Nursing — Vision and Mission:

- To provide education to all without discrimination, delivering education and research to the highest standard possible and to undertake knowledge exchange within the wider academic community
- Equip students to relieve suffering, poverty and disease in a way that confirms Christian ideals, and in the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth
- Remain apolitical in all aspects of activity, recruitment and service delivery
- Develop the Christian faith through the teaching of health professions
- Support outreach programs that are designed to improve the physical, mental and social health of the community.