

## Let us introduce you to a remarkable woman and a remarkable work ...



“My name is Samar Sahhar; I was born in Jerusalem the eldest of six children. At the time of my birth my parents had founded the Jeel al Amal orphanage for boys in the village of Bethany near Jerusalem. It is not usual in Palestine for sexes to mix, but I grew up with all the boys and joined them inside the orphanage with games of football or marbles. Of course outside the orphanage we were forbidden to mix. Later in life I worked closely with my father Basil, assisting him with the running of the home. I gained first hand knowledge of the work God had given him in rescuing orphaned and destitute boys and after my father’s death, my mother and I continued to run the home.”

### Our story begins

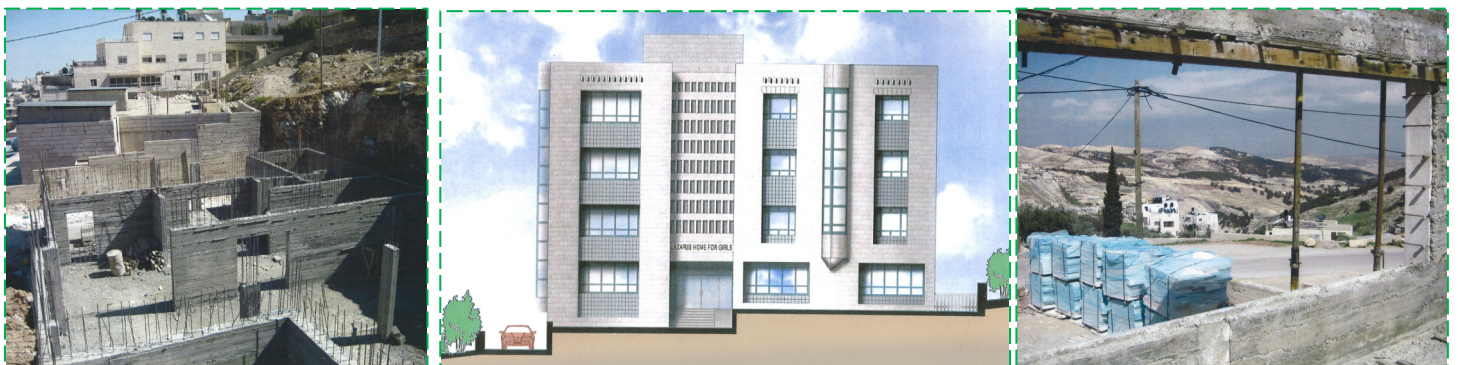
In November 1997, Alan Anderson visited Jeel al Amal and witnessed a heart-rending moment when four children were brought to the home, two boys and two girls. The boys were taken in but there was no place for the girls. In this moment, “The Friends of Lazarus” had its beginning. Alan found the funds and Samar rose to the new challenge. An apartment was rented and adapted for use as an orphanage and the name Lazarus adopted. After eleven years the home has grown to four apartments which house approximately 38 girls, four housemothers and Samar. Conditions are cramped, sanitation poor, and the rent high. Even so, Lazarus provides a safe and loving environment and the girls are thriving. All of this has been made possible by ongoing financial support from The Friends of Lazarus, the McCabe Educational Trust and visiting pilgrim parties who include a visit to Lazarus in their itinerary - visiting the “Living Stones” of the land.

### A New home !

A new Lazarus home for girls is now emerging in Bethany. The Friends have purchased the land, employed a local architect and construction is well advanced. The basement and two stories are complete and immediate funding of **£120,000** is required to complete the shell of the building. McCabe Pilgrimages are providing almost half of this amount and the friends have a major fund-raising event planned for Christmas. A target of completing the basic structure this autumn is realistic.

Various self-financing and money generating schemes are planned for the ground floor of the new building including a clinic to serve the local community. The basement will eventually house a laundry, store rooms and a kitchen. The girls will be accommodated on three floors in bedrooms sleeping four. There will be accommodation for housemothers and an apartment for Samar. There is room for the girls to play both inside and out and from the upper floors there are wonderful views over the Judean hills.

**OUR PRIORITY** is to help fund the completion of two floors allowing the girls to move in. This work too could be completed by Christmas. Each floor will cost in the region of £124,000. The total budget is £1 million pounds. In faith “The Friends of Lazarus” have taken on an enormous task and have brought the project close to fulfilment. We are delighted to come on board and to lay this need before McCabe travellers.



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