

# The McCabe Educational Trust

## DIARY OF THE YEAR 2007



### MARCH

**We are grateful to all the supporters of McCabe who helped us distribute £66,000 to very worthwhile ventures in the last year.**

A special **Thank You** to McCabe pilgrims who helped us raise **£10,596** during March, and to a total of **£29,065** so far this year.

With your help, we will continue helping those in need we encounter on our travels.

### THANK-YOU!

We are beginning our new year with a record total of donations received during our first quarter. We are on schedule to achieve our fund-raising target this year of £100,000.

McCabe Educational Trust on the web !

[www.mccabe-travel.co.uk](http://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk)



A major new McCabe initiative is our website, NOW LIVE, through which we plan to keep our friends informed of the Trust's work on a regular basis.

Read the history of the Trust and learn about our favourite projects. Watch a slide show and print our profile leaflet and Book List. Please give your friends a copy of our "Make a Donation" form!

### Dr Graham's Homes choir is touring Britain during April

The choir of Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong are touring Britain in April and we are very proud of the fact that Jason Shillong, one of our two sponsored boys at the homes will be with them (pictured are Jason on the left and Bruno Salvador meeting the Revd Bob Jackson, our chairman, on a recent McCabe visit). Bob and McCabe staff will be attending the opening concert in St. Paul's Church Covent Garden in London on Thursday April 12 at 7.30pm. We are promised an evening of song and dance from a remarkably talented ensemble of young people.



The choir will also sing in Oxford (13 April), Edinburgh (15 April) Dundee (19 April) Inverness (21 April) the island of Arran (24 April) Troon (25 April) Glasgow (26 April) with the final concert and a curry dinner in London at St. Coumba's, Pont Street on Saturday 28 April. **Call the Trust office for full details.**

**Let the McCabe Educational Trust be a channel for your charitable giving**

Send a general purpose donation OR send a specific donation

Remember The McCabe Educational Trust in your will

Become a regular donor to the McCabe Educational Trust with a standing order

**All administration costs of the McCabe Educational Trust are met in full by McCabe Pilgrimages.**

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## Al Shurooq School for Blind Children BETHLEHEM

### A story of one woman's perseverance

**Helen Shehadeh**, an elder of St. Andrew's Church of Scotland in Jerusalem, overcame the challenge of losing her sight at the age of two to become a devoted teacher and director of one of Bethlehem's powerful social work institutions. It is Christians like Helen who are keeping the gospel story alive in the Holy Land today.

**Al Shurooq School for the Blind** was founded by Helen in 1981 with the aim of enabling blind people in Palestine to become self sufficient and productive members of their society. In a rented building there is space to work with 25 children but ambitious plans are in hand and a new building is now under construction with a planned opening date of September 2007. There is a shortfall in funding of £70,000 which, in faith, Helen is praying will materialise.

**We WILL help ... can you?** £70,000 is a relatively small amount to remove a huge financial worry.



**Children live in the school** and have a normal schedule of learning with classes in Maths, geography, history and the like. In addition they learn Braille, both in Arabic and English and are taught daily living skills and helped with their mobility. Extra curricular activities such as music and art also feature prominently as do computer classes using synthesizers.

**When the child returns home**, the school keeps in touch and actively helps them to integrate, providing many of the essential tools they will need including Braille textbooks and typewriters, Braille paper, magnifiers, canes and tape recorders.

**Specialized social workers** visit the children in their villages and offer them, their parents and teachers, support where often there is great ignorance. There are still many people who believe that blindness is not altogether respectable and this is a prime prejudice that Helen and her staff seek to change. Helen strives to instil confidence in the children *to do things for themselves and by themselves* and not to be the pitied victims people expect them to be.



### A Success Story

Atieh Subeih came to Al Shurooq in 1966 when he was eleven. He had never been to a school before, as no school would accept him because of his physical and visual disabilities. At Al Shurooq, he excelled and completed a four year course in just two years. He was then integrated back into his local school in the village of Al-Khader where, with the assistance of the Al Shurooq follow-up programme, he finished high school and entered Bethlehem University. Today, Atieh is a first year student reading Arabic literature and enjoying it tremendously.

**The McCabe Educational Trust** is proud to be a financial partner in Helen's work. McCabe pilgrims often include a visit to Al Shurooq as an integral part of their pilgrim journey through the Holy Land.

For more information visit the Al Shurooq website: [www.nsfvh.org](http://www.nsfvh.org)

**It is a sobering thought that without the help of Christian partners overseas  
Helen's work and others like it simply would not exist.**