

# The McCabe Educational Trust

## DIARY OF THE YEAR 2006



### NOVEMBER

We are grateful to all the supporters of McCabe who helped us distribute £42,000 to very worthwhile ventures last year.

A special **Thank You** to McCabe pilgrims who helped us raise **£9,236** during November and **£59,194** so far this year.

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

#### News from the Al Shurooq Blind School in Bethlehem

**Helen Shehadeh writes:** "The typing of new books continues, but unfortunately we are having grave problems with our main Braille printer. We have been sending and receiving e-mails to the producers in Germany, but we can't seem to be able to fix it. We have almost come to the conclusion that maybe we ought to be looking for a replacement. The machine has been in use since 1995. It was donated by World Vision at a cost of fifty thousand US dollars at the time."

This is an urgent and basic need in the school. Perhaps some of our readers can help. Any donations should be "gift-aided and we will send the donation and the reclaimed tax immediately to Helen. What a special Christmas Present a new printer would be!



#### A visitor from Bethlehem !



Helen's brother, Edmund Shehadeh, visited our office this month. Edmund is the Director of the Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation. Brother and sister are doing remarkable work in the most difficult of circumstances! Most McCabe pilgrim groups visit the "Bethlehem Rehab" as part of their pilgrim programme. Edmund visited us to explain how important our visits are to the morale of the staff. "We feel very isolated behind the wall and to have McCabe groups visit us and show their support is very heartening". The work of the Rehab, like so much of the good work being done in Bethlehem, is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. The McCabe Educational Trust will continue to support Edmund with visits and financial assistance.

#### Note received from a supporter:

"I've managed to persuade St Bots not only to part with £500 for each of the orphanages in Bethany but also to make the Bethlehem Rehabilitation Centre one of the objects of our Advent and Christmas collections (if these come in at the same rate at last year they may receive about £1750)"

All best wishes from Mhairi Ellis, Administrator at St Botolph without Bishopsgate.

#### SUBSCRIBE NOW !

If you would like to receive this newsletter each month **DIRECT** to your computer please enter your email details on [www.mccabe-travel.co.uk](http://www.mccabe-travel.co.uk) or send an email with your email address to [elist@mccabe-travel.co.uk](mailto:elist@mccabe-travel.co.uk)  
We will be delighted to keep you informed of the ongoing work of the trust.

**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.**

## Andy Webster visits: JEEL AL AMAL BOYS HOME IN BETHANY

I recently travelled to Jerusalem and from there made the (once) short journey over the Mount of Olives to the village of Bethany and the Jeel al-Amal Boys Home.



Life is difficult and trying in Bethany with many restrictions on what we would consider a ‘normal’ way of living. Once a short hop from the Old City, my coach takes a lengthy detour around the new Israeli security wall. The staff at Jeel are concerned that when the wall is finished they may no longer have access to Jerusalem. **Will pilgrims still be able to visit them?** Already it is a longer journey and we are grateful to all those groups from McCabes who continue to make the trip.

The school continues to work its magic. There are 72 boys living in the Home and an additional 100 (mostly boys) attend the day school.

**NEW is the Lazarus Girls Home** where 30 girls live. The girls attend the local Russian school, where fees are payable for an excellent education.

**NEW on the scene is Charlie’s Bakery.** Staffed by two former Jeel boys, the bakery sells bread commercially in Bethany and raises funds for the school.

When I first met the twins four-year old **Rami and Ramzi and their brother Ahmed**, they were nervous and shy to the point of being withdrawn and tearful. Five years later, they were among the first to greet me and the confidence and happiness they project is immediately apparent.

The authorities were reluctant to allow Abdullah to attend Jeel at all because of the nature and severity of his disabilities. The Abdullah I met on this visit has become a boisterous handful of a boy who fits in easily with his schoolmates.

These boys are a great tribute to the care and work of Alice, her daughter Samar, and all the staff at Jeel and the special atmosphere of love and security they create.

Sadly, the needs are particularly great at the moment as the homes struggle to meet monthly food bills and staff wages. Much outside aid has been reduced or stopped, partly due to concerns over the new Palestinian government and partly due to the recent conflict in the Lebanon which has resulted in a drop in visitor numbers.

**The Jeel al Amal Boys Home and the Lazarus Home for Girls rely totally on voluntary donations.** Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers. Your contributions ARE appreciated and are enormously beneficial.

Please make cheques payable to “The McCabe Educational Trust”. The FULL amount of your donation will be speedily forwarded to Jeel and Lazarus.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** look up the supporters website: [www.friendsoflazarushomeforgirls.org.uk](http://www.friendsoflazarushomeforgirls.org.uk) or buy the book: **In Which Language Does a Child Cry ?** - the life of Alice Sahhar and the history of Jeel al Amal – author David Hughes. Price £5.99 + £1.50 pp available from The McCabe Educational Trust.



Andy Webster  
McCabe Educational Trust