



The Church in Wales Jubilee Fund

Autumn 2010 Newsletter

Work of Mobile Dental Clinic continues—with help from the Church in Wales

Despite all the difficulties in Gaza as a result of 'Operation Cast Iron' in January 2009 and the subsequent restrictions on import of fuel, medical supplies and other necessities, the Mobile Dental Clinic, funded by the Church in Wales, and operated by the Near East Council of Churches (NECC), has continued to serve the communities of the poorer parts of Gaza City.

The Mobile Dental Clinic works in the districts of Shija'ia and Darraj, Gaza City. It also provides dental treatment for the trainees at the NECC's three vocational training centres.

Besides dental services, the dentists provide screening for those pregnant women who are receiving antenatal care at the NECC Family Health Centres, and children from 2.5 to 6 years in well-baby clinics.

5314 patients were examined by the dentists in the Mobile Dental Clinic in 2009. The funding provided by the Church in Wales Jubilee Fund has allowed the



NECC to provide free dental services in areas where there is no other dental care. The most frequently performed dental procedure in 2009 was fillings (1453 cases), with 490 extractions.

Because of the restriction on the amount of fuel allowed into Gaza, the NECC has not been able to carry out outreach dental health activities in the community as it has been able to in previous years. However, it has been possible to establish a small dental clinic at Rafah, in the southern part of Gaza, at which dental services are provided two days a week.

Shija'ia Family Health Centre works out of borrowed house

The demolition of the Shija'ia Clinic by an Israeli missile on 10 January 2009 constituted a traumatic event, writes *Constantine Dabbagh*, executive secretary of the NECC. It resulted in depriving the population served by the clinic (70,000) from receiving health services, loss of all equipment and commodities, loss of medical records and so forth.



Our staff, jointly with the local community, actively engaged in the search of an alternative place which thankfully was found and adapted to our needs by 30 April 2009. Accordingly, we were able to resume all activities at the Shija'ia Family Health Centre on 2 May 2009, thanks to the efforts of the Pontifical Mission, which paid for the restoration and adaptation of the house, and grants by CARITAS in France, Switzerland and Luxemburg and a pledge by the Church in Wales towards the replacement of the destroyed equipment and the procurement of medicines and medical supplies. In the long term, we have received a generous offer from the Greek Government to cover the cost of the construction of a new clinic when a plot of land can be secured and when construction materials would be allowed entry into Gaza by the Israelis.



\$91000 sent by churches in Wales to restock Gaza Family Health Centre

Parishioners across Wales responded generously to the Archbishop of Wales' urgent appeal for money to restock the Shija'ia Family Health Centre, following its destruction in January 2009. Most of the money was raised through coffee mornings held on the first weekend in May 2009. A young Muslim group in Newport raised £1000 through a bazaar, and a band playing Jewish klezmer music collected donations in Llanidloes.



Coffee Morning at St Brides Major attended by Jane Hutt AM and the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan

Developments at the Shija'ia Centre

Partly as a result of the Church in Wales donation, the NECC has been able to computerise its medical records, following the loss of all the written records at the Shija'ia Clinic. This was particularly necessary to monitor antenatal care, family planning, post natal care, home visits and the well and sick baby clinics.

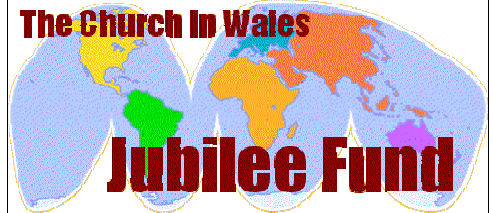


This involved trying to make contact with all the families in the area — however programmes and treatment were interrupted for two months.

Again, being able to use some of the Church in Wales donation, and with support from the Danish churches, the NECC started implementing an emergency nutrition programme, aimed at decreasing the prevalence of anaemia and malnutrition among an estimated number of 15,000 children in the Shija'ia area. In the 20 days following the destruction of the Clinic, 27,396 packages of milk powder were distributed by the NECC as workers made home visits to

families who could no longer visit the Clinic. The nutrition programme has continued in 2010, as unprecedented unemployment and poverty rates now exist in Gaza.

Since January 2009, Gaza has witnessed a tremendous growth in mental health problems, particularly post-traumatic stress disorder. There are frequent and long electricity cuts, and shortages in fuel and cooking gas, all adding to stress-related conditions, particularly among children. Two week long summer camps are being held for children aged 6-10 living in the vicinity of the Shaja'ia Family Health Centre to provide play activities and the opportunity for counselling.



The Jubilee Fund was established by the Governing Body of the Church in Wales in April 2000, with the aim of:

- marking the Millennium by creating a Church in Wales Fund attracting new money for funding overseas projects supported by their local churches;
- responding to the 1998 Lambeth Conference resolutions concerning economic justice and the funding of international development programmes.

The Fund has raised over £300,000 and supported 11 projects world-wide. At present it completely funds the Gaza Mobile Dental Clinic, and has assisted the Near East Council of Churches in restocking and rebuilding the Shija'ia Family Health Clinic.

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Cheques should be made payable to **Church in Wales Jubilee Fund** and sent to the Treasurer. Donations from individuals should if possible be gift-aided—gift aid envelopes are available from the Treasurer.

\$40,000 (£26,000)
is needed in 2010 to run
the NECC
Mobile Dental Clinic.

We in the Church in Wales
are the sole funders.

Without our support, over
70,000 people in Gaza will
be denied dental care.

Please ask your parish to
donate generously.

Thank you!



**Bring a smile to
the people of
Gaza**