



Woman-to-Woman Worldwide Service Project 2008 Israel & Palestine

INTRODUCTION:

There are two projects available for you to support. Each is equally deserving of your time and efforts. Many very worthwhile projects were visited by the 16 participants and two leaders during this 11-day in country experience. It was difficult to narrow the selection. Tuesday, October 7, 2008 was a very intense day for the travelers. They learned about both of these locations and were deeply moved to help.



Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)

The Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) has been a close partner of Global Ministries since its establishment. Headquartered in Beirut, the MECC plays an active role in conflict resolution, peace and community building, and bringing together Oriental Orthodox, Eastern Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant churches throughout the Middle East. MECC represents 90 percent of the indigenous Christians of the Middle East and is a fellowship of 27 member churches representing 12 to 15 million Christians from the Middle East and North Africa and from Algeria to Iran.

One of several programs administered by MECC is the Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). Established in the early 1950's DSPR was organized to aid Palestinian refugees with their newly acquired status following the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. DSPR advocates for Palestinians and works to improve the quality of life for the innumerable Palestinians who live in the refugee camps in Gaza, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Galilee, and also in Jordan and Lebanon.

The services of the DSPR aim at enabling people to better organize their lives so that they can live with dignity in spite of the various difficulties and constraints that seek to inhibit them from "normal" living. Over 70,000 Palestinians benefit from the health clinics in DSPR areas of operation, particularly in Gaza and Jordan.

The Woman-to-Woman Worldwide group shares in the a deep concern as to the effect this war will have on the psychological state of children in Gaza. There is a grave demand for social workers, psychological specialists, and other human resources in this particular field. The children of Gaza have been introduced to scenes of death, blood, demolitions, family loss, injuries, and the general climate of fear and confusion. The feeling of insecurity, especially when the parents seem to be helpless in easing the fears and concerns of their children, might have a permanent effect on the development of the traumatized child's personality. The three clinics in Gaza do not have such specialists that are based on a permanent basis and that can tend to those in need of some help. It would be extremely helpful if in each clinic there is a skilled and well-trained specialist that can be present at least for a period of six months after the violence stops. Previously, the clinics were working in association with other local institutions that specialize in psycho-social intervention and that offer lectures, trainings and open sessions to the public, however, today there is a demand for specialists that can deal with individual concerns and problems on a daily basis.

In the words of Dr. Bernard Sabella, Director of the MECC Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees, "We stress the need for the refugees to live their lives with dignity and not to lose hope for a better and more peaceful time."

RAWDAT EL ZUHUR

East Jerusalem

Rawdat el-Zuhur (Arabic for "Garden of Flowers") is a primary school for Palestinian children, both Christian and Muslim, in East Jerusalem. Established in 1952, aims at bringing up a new generation that is aware of the principles of good citizenship, and concerned for the environment; capable of thinking creatively, and analyzing logically and critically, offering and accepting positive criticism, and excelling in performance; and equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes to assume leadership in a democratic society which they would develop and preserve. It serves mainly the lower income community.



Rawdat el-Zuhur seeks to provide:

- A distinguished school in terms of its quality services in the field of pre- and basic schooling.
- A school that provides equitable opportunities for the children of Jerusalem, and is characterized by its relationship with the society in general and parents in particular.
- A school where research, reading, use of modern technology and computers, form an essential component of the learning process, just as music, arts, and sports form an essential component of the extracurricular programs and activities.
- A school where teachers are able to deal with individual differences among students, and to provide a safe and innovative climate for students and children.

Please send gifts* to:

Global Ministries
Office for Resource Development
P.O. Box 1986
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Questions?

Office for Resource Development
Telephone: 317-713-2555
Telefax: 317-635-4323
gifts@dom.disciples.org
www.globalministries.org

*Please note on the gift your project preference and the WWW 2008 trip.
Or include this form.

Woman-to-Woman Worldwide Service Project 2008 Israel / Palestine Gift

FROM:

Name: _____

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AMOUNT: \$ _____

FOR:

____ DSPR Gaza children's counseling services

____ Rawdat El-Zuhur Primary School

Woman-to-Woman Worldwide is sponsored by International Disciples Women's Ministries and administered through the Office of Disciples Women, a ministry of Disciples Home Missions, in partnership with Global Ministries.