

# **THE** Department for World Service **LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2005**  
**JERUSALEM**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Foreword.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Healthcare in Focus .....</b>	<b>3</b>
● New medical trends lead AVH to shift towards more specialized departments	
<b>A Humanitarian Achievement .....</b>	<b>4</b>
● The LWF celebrates the opening of the Cancer Care Center	
<b>Prevention Through Education .....</b>	<b>7</b>
● AVH Diabetes Program addresses a growing medical risk within the Palestinian population	
<b>The Doctor Is In .....</b>	<b>8</b>
● AVH CEO Dr. Tawfiq Nasser tells the story of Ear, Nose and Throat specialist Dr. Jihad El-Baba and how he came to AVH	
<b>Community Centered .....</b>	<b>10</b>
● The LWF Village Health Program reaches isolated West Bank towns with health services	
<b>Partners in Care .....</b>	<b>12</b>
● “Making Peace Through Health” initiative breaks through cultural barriers to connect medical staff and faculty	
<b>Augusta Victoria Hospital 2005 Statistics.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Augusta Victoria Hospital Board of Governace.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Raising Hopes and Homes.....</b>	<b>14</b>
● An upcoming LWF project takes on the task of creating affordable housing for Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem	
<b>Serving Those Most in Need.....</b>	<b>16</b>
● Academic scholarships and humanitarian supplies give opportunities and hope to those in need	
<b>Greater Jerusalem Map.....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Wall-to-Wall Challenges.....</b>	<b>18</b>
● How Israel’s Separation Wall affects Palestinians and hinders the work of the LWF	
<b>West Bank Map .....</b>	<b>20</b>
● A geographical layout of LWF programs and services	
<b>Life Training.....</b>	<b>22</b>
● Palestinian youth enrolled at LWF Vocational Training Centers learn job skills that lead to employment	
<b>Leading by Example .....</b>	<b>24</b>
● The VT apprenticeship training and female recruitment programs serve as models for other vocational programs in Palestine	
<b>Vocational Exchange.....</b>	<b>28</b>
● A cooperation program with a training center in Norway leads to friendships and a sharing of cultures	
<b>Planning for the Future .....</b>	<b>29</b>
● Strategic Planning maps out the coming years for the Vocational Training Program	
<b>Outreach Pioneering.....</b>	<b>30</b>
● Village outreach meets the needs of Palestinians whose opportunities have been limited by the construction of the Separation Wall	
<b>Fund Raisers.....</b>	<b>31</b>
● Through skilled labor and volunteer work, VT students contribute to the income of the Vocational Training Program	
<b>Vocational Training Advisory Board.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Vocational Training Program 2005 Statistics .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Branches of Peace and Plenty .....</b>	<b>34</b>
● Proceeds from the yearly olive harvest benefit the patients of Augusta Victoria Hospital	
<b>Related Agencies and Member Churches .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Donors and Supporters of 2005 .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Income, Revenue and Expenses of 2005.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>LWF Jerusalem Program Senior Staff.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Doners for Olive Oil and Olive Trees .....</b>	<b>40</b>

# FOREWORD

Steadfast, *sumood* in Arabic, is commonly used by Palestinians to describe those who remain in the Holy Land despite the strangling political situation and who wait for a more just era and an end to the conflict. This steadfastness and strength is also reflected in the landscape of Jerusalem with its rocky hillsides that have stood for millennia, observing the astounding and troubling history of the region.

The Lutheran World Federation in Jerusalem is dedicated to being a steadfast presence in the Holy Land, its historic land on the Mount of Olives symbolizing the peace and cooperation that so many are working to bring about. Since 1950, the LWF has worked in Jerusalem, offering health and humanitarian services to the refugee and impoverished communities of Palestine. In the past fifty-six years, the organization has expanded, building upon its connections with the people and the land.

This idea of building upon strong foundations has been a theme in the changes that have taken place within the LWF Jerusalem program in 2005. One of the greatest achievements of the past year was the opening of the Cancer Care Center at Augusta Victoria Hospital, a project that the LWF has struggled towards for the past four years. This facility is the only one in the Palestinian territories offering radiation treatment to those suffering from cancer. That this service is finally available to the Palestinian population is a testament to God's grace and steadfastness and an affirmation of the teamwork and dedication of the staff.

In maintaining the LWF's property on the Mount of Olives, we have also observed a literal strengthening of foundations. Much work was done in 2005 building and repairing boundary walls and fences that protect the LWF grounds. Many of these repairs were done by students and staff from the LWF's Vocational Training Center, and their work led to a safer and better-secured campus. Plans for repairs also began for the north side of Augusta Victoria Hospital, where an earthquake in 2004 led to cracks in the building's structure. The repairs of this damage will begin at the start of the dry season in 2006, strengthening the hospital against further damage in future quakes.

Continued on page 2



The Lutheran World Federation has been serving Palestine refugees through Augusta Victoria Hospital since 1950. The hospital building, built in 1910, has been maintained and updated through the years by the LWF. One of the most recent renovations was the transformation of a water cistern into the new Cancer Care Center.





At the diabetes clinic, a young girl proudly shows her arm to her mother after receiving a shot. 2005 brought with it many challenges in transporting patients to Augusta Victoria Hospital. Restricted highway travel and continued construction of the Separation Wall in the West Bank made it nearly impossible for patients to reach the hospital for necessary medical services. The LWF expanded a busing service that picks up patients and staff in West Bank towns and transports them to the hospital.

The issue of the tax case continued through 2005 as the LWF worked to negotiate an agreement with the Israeli government concerning the tax exemption that was granted to the LWF by Jordan in 1966 and by Israel in 1967. The humanitarian work performed by the LWF was recognized for its value and taxes were waived for the organization, allowing the LWF to operate on a wide-reaching scale. The Israeli Tax Department is currently attempting to end this waiver, putting the work and services of the LWF at great risk. The LWF hopes that prior to the May 2006 hearing, the Israeli government will reaffirm this tax exemption or reach a negotiated solution which allows the LWF to continue to operate Augusta Victoria Hospital and provide other humanitarian services.

Also to continue in 2006 is progress on the Mount of Olives Housing Project. Through this project, the LWF hopes to strengthen the presence of Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem. Palestinian Christians, a dwindling minority, often act as peacekeepers through the work of their churches and community centers, but a lack of affordable housing is slowly pushing this population out of Jerusalem. The LWF plans to construct 84 housing units on the Mount of Olives, providing homes to needy families and, on a wider scale, to a population whose presence is necessary in achieving a peace that is inclusive of all faiths.

On behalf of the staff of the LWF Jerusalem program, I would like to express our gratitude to all who have encouraged us, prayed for us, and offered financial support in order to strengthen our ability to serve those most in need in Jerusalem and the West Bank. Your support helps us to offer healing and hope to the sick and oppressed and to embolden those who would take risks for peace. We pray for a steadfast spirit in all who work for peace and justice.

**Mark B. Brown**

**Regional Representative**

# HEALTHCARE IN FOCUS

**Augusta Victoria Hospital strives toward a higher quality of care by channeling resources into specialized departments**

In response to community health needs and international trends in hospital administration, Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) started a transition to healthcare that is focused on medical specialization. Rather than administering just basic care for the full spectrum of health needs, the AVH is shaping its overall services to focus on distinct departments. The transition process is designed to maximize the efficiency of the hospital in its responses to patients' needs and to the challenging political and economic environment.

This shift in hospital operations resulted in two distinct levels of healthcare. The first is the more traditional level, in which AVH serves as a general secondary care hospital for Palestinian refugees and patients referred by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). This level of care is represented by the more general departments of AVH: Internal Medicine, General Surgery, General Pediatrics, and Diagnostic Services. The specialty departments of the hospital represent the second and higher level of care. The Cancer Care Center, the Artificial Kidney Unit (dialysis), the Ear, Nose and Throat Department, and the Gastro-enterology Unit provide more specialized treatments that are not available at the majority of hospitals in Palestine. The Palestinian Authority (PA) refers most of the AVH patients in need of specialized care.

In 2005, the hospital admitted 4,713 in-patients, accounting for 19,526 days of hospital care. In addition, AVH provided 8,278 dialysis sessions; 2,201 endoscopy sessions; 752 chemotherapy sessions; and 3,002 interventions in the radiation oncology unit, which first began receiving patients in August of 2005.

The hospital is licensed for 161 beds and, on average, operates 107 beds a day. The total number of staff is 218 with 92 nurses, 20 senior medical and surgical consultants, and 18 general physicians in training.



Mariam and Alla, two patients at Augusta Victoria Hospital, tape dialysis tubes to a doll on the floor of the Artificial Kidney Unit as part of a play therapy program practiced by the hospital. Every week, the two children visit Augusta Victoria Hospital and spend three days receiving dialysis treatments and playing. AVH is moving toward a style of healthcare focusing on holistic care and specialized medical departments such as kidney dialysis and cancer care.

# A HUMANITARIAN ACHIEVEMENT

**The new Cancer Care Center opens after a four-year effort to bring radiation treatment to Palestinians**

The Lutheran World Federation and Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) celebrated a significant accomplishment this year with the official opening of the Cancer Care Center. Staff, friends and supporters of the LWF, AVH, the German government, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land gathered on December 4, 2005, to celebrate the official opening and dedication of the cancer center. The commemoration marked the official beginning of work in the Cancer Care Center at AVH after a four year struggle to get this highly needed humanitarian medical program launched.

The Center is the first to offer cancer treatment to the Palestinian people and caters to patients from Gaza and the West Bank. Patients are referred primarily through the Palestinian Ministry of Health and arrive at the hospital with assistance from the Department of Patient Services, which deals with the Israeli Civil Administration in issuing necessary permits for patients' transportation.

The Center opened in August of 2005 and by November had treated over 1,000 patients. Mr. Michel Bahbah, the Director of the Department of Patient Services, speaks of his satisfaction with the center, which ensures a basic human right for all Palestinians, the "right to come to AVH to receive cancer care." He contends that the most important step for any physician and patient to receive quality care is "first to access the place of care."

The main components of the Cancer Care Center are the medical physics laboratory, where radiation treatment plans are calculated, and the linear accelerator, which administers the treatments. "We're treating

[Continued on page 6](#)



A patient speaks with Dr. Fuad Sabatin, the director of the Cancer Care Center, about cancer treatments at Augusta Victoria Hospital. Patients who require daily cancer treatments often stay at the hospital on in-patient status. Even those who live a short distance from the hospital would normally have to spend hours in transit because of restricted roadways and checkpoints that Israel has set up in the West Bank.



The team of radiation therapists adjust the position of a cancer patient on the linear accelerator. Yasser Qasem, Ayman Jaabani, Darassi Imad and Dima Husseini are the only radio-oncology therapists in Palestine and are in charge of administering the radiation treatments to patients at the Cancer Care Center.



At the ceremony commemorating the opening of the Cancer Care Center, ELCJHL Bishop Munib Younan, chair of the AVH Board, cuts through the ribbon at the entrance to the new center as a young cancer patient, staff, board members, and supporters look on. The center began treating patients in August 2005 and by November reached its full capacity of radiation sessions per month.

To reach the cancer center, patients need permits to travel through the West Bank, and AVH works with the Israeli Ministry of Health to help patients acquire these permits. At the cancer center reception desk, Dr. Zuhair Maali consults with medical secretary Mirvat Abualhwa who sets appointments for new patients and keeps track of their permit status. The Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health most often refers the patients who are treated at the cancer center.





The medical physicists at the Cancer Care Center are in charge not only of preparing radiation treatment plans for patients, but also for performing quality control and testing on the linear accelerator machine. Mohammad Abusrour and Amineh Khatib Hamad prepare to calibrate the linear accelerator, a weekly process that ensures that radiation dose rates will not fluctuate.

about 25 patients a day,” says Mohammad Abusrour, a medical physicist at the lab. “We’re trying to use the machine to its largest extent, but due to staffing that’s the limit we can do now, just 25.” Patients between the ages of three and 98 have been treated at the center, and the demand is great due to the fact that for West Bank citizens, Augusta Victoria Hospital is the only place they can receive radiation therapy.

The director of the Cancer Care Center is Dr. Fuad Sabatin. He is supported by the head of the unit, Dr. Zuhair Maali, whose family was displaced from Palestine after the 1948 war. Dr. Maali came to Jerusalem from Jordan where his parents were refugees and where he was born. Ms. Amineh El-Khateeb heads the medical physics laboratory, the only one of its kind servicing Palestinian patients. She and her colleague Mohammad Abusrour and the lab’s four therapists are overwhelmed by the number of referrals but feel pride in their work serving patients in need of their skills and services. AVH is now focused on continuing the development of its cancer treatment services, along with the clinical and psycho-social services also offered at the hospital.

The celebration opened with a word from Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, the hospital’s Chief Executive Officer, followed by the Right Reverend Munib Younan, Bishop of the ELCJHL. Other speakers included the LWF World Service Director and a representative of the German government. The School Choir of the College Des Freres sang at the event. A young child suffering from cancer assisted in the cutting of the ribbon with the Bishop, the German government representative, the Palestinian president’s Chief of Staff, and the Vice Chairman of the AVH Board. v

The celebration then moved from the Augusta Victoria Festival Hall to the new center where Reverend Mark Brown, the LWF Regional Representative in Jerusalem, and Board member Aage Müller-Nilssen led the participants in a service of dedication.

The hundreds of patients treated at the Center, the staff, and the administration of the hospital and the LWF are most sincerely grateful to all supporters of this humanitarian service in the Holy City of Jerusalem.



# PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION

**AVH confronts the threat of diabetes by focusing on information as well as treatment**

A looming health issue in Palestine is the increase of diabetes rates within the population. It is estimated that seven to ten percent of Palestinians in the West Bank suffer from diabetes, and as much as 40 percent of women and 20 percent of men between the ages of 30 and 55 are obese.\* Most diabetes programs catering to West Bank Palestinians tend to focus on medication rather than prevention. When Augusta Victoria Hospital opened the Diabetes and Nutrition Counseling Center three years ago, the goal was not only to treat diabetes but also to provide education about the condition and its prevention.

This program, funded by the World Diabetes Foundation (WDF) through a partnership with DanChurchAid (DCA), reached 800 people in 2005. Two teams operate in the center, a health education and promotion team and a health care delivery team. Together, they provide medical treatment as well as counseling services, informing patients about nutrition and lifestyle changes that can counteract the effects of diabetes. The Center's services include a clinic run by a diabetes physician specialist, a nutrition clinic, social support services, a metabolic laboratory, and a foot care clinic.

AVH plans on expanding the services of the foot care clinic in 2006. Because diabetes often leads to complications in the extremities, such as the loss of sensation, many patients arrive at the clinic with foot infections and injuries because of their inability to notice problems in the early stages. A new component of the program will introduce a rotation of podiatrists from Denmark who will volunteer at AVH during short-term stays. The visiting health professionals will provide an extra hand at the busy clinic and will teach techniques to the permanent staff.

The diabetes program also offers outreach services through the LWF village health clinics and local schools that are connected to the project. Local partners of the AVH are the UNRWA diabetes program for refugees and the Palestinian Ministry of Health diabetes program. Other smaller partners include local organizations and NGOs working in the Bethlehem and Nablus areas.

\*Statistics from [www.worlddiabetesfoundation.org](http://www.worlddiabetesfoundation.org)



A woman has her feet inspected at the diabetes center foot clinic. Patients at the foot clinic are tested for sensation in their feet and counseled on foot care and ways to avoid infection and injury. In 2006, the foot care clinic will expand with the help of DanChurchAid, which plans to establish a program in which Danish podiatrists will volunteer at Augusta Victoria Hospital and teach medical techniques to the permanent foot clinic staff.

# THE DOCTOR IS IN

How a renowned Ear, Nose and Throat specialist came to work at AVH—an interview with Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, AVH CEO



Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, CEO of Augusta Victoria Hospital, meets with Dr. Jihad El-Baba.

The new Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) focuses on investing in staff that can fulfill the needs of patients and their communities and create stories of medical success to further the mission of the Lutheran World Federation. These medical and clinical experts are partners in care-giving, and without their talents, AVH would find it very difficult to excel.

I met Dr. Jihad Khalil El-Baba when he visited AVH briefly in 1999 during his summer vacation stay in his hometown near Hebron. He knew AVH used to have an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Department through brief contact he had had with past AVH doctors in the same specialty.

Dr. El-Baba just walked in one day and asked if it was possible to meet the Administrator. I was happy to meet him. He looked very serious and confident. He was sure to present himself with pride and fullness, emphasizing that he was very committed to developing ENT services for the Palestinian people if he was supported by an institution.

He then proceeded to tell me about his career in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. He had eight operating rooms and several senior and junior surgeons working for him. The budget for the hospital he worked on was unlimited, as it was fully supported by a government that is rich with oil and natural resources. In short, he had it all, and it was very difficult to even imagine that there was a remote chance that he would join AVH.

So I conducted the meeting with a certain sense of casualness, as it was evident that I had little room to maneuver to attract him and compete with the income he was making in the Gulf.

Then he said one thing that made me feel that hope was there to make an initial move. He had come to build a house in his old country but was hesitant whether this was a good idea.



Dr. El-Baba checks a young patient for a deviated septum at the ENT department. The doctor's staff at Augusta Victoria Hospital is much smaller than at his previous position in Abu Dhabi, but he is pleased to be working in his home country.

He and I engaged in a serious discussion on how much the country needed him, and that building a house would always provide him with a good sense of relation to his land and people. This brief face-to-face discussion was followed by multiple phone calls that finally resulted in reaching an agreement on the phone before he even came back to the country again. When he finally returned, he did so as the ENT Department Head at AVH.

Dr. El-Baba is from Halhool, a village near Hebron. He is married with five children, one of whom is training in ENT in his father's footsteps. He received his basic medical and surgical training at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt and completed that in 1972. He specialized at the same university and received his ENT sub-specialty in 1986. He received his Jordanian Board in ENT in 1986 also.

Dr. El-Baba started his professional career at his university in Egypt. He moved to the Arabian Gulf where he worked as an ENT registrar in Al-Jazeera Hospital in Abu Dhabi. He moved consistently within the hospital to reach the level of consultant and then head of the Ear, Nose and Throat Department in the same hospital. He joined AVH in 1999. Dr. Baba is a member of the European Rhinology Society and a member of the Georges Portman Institute, Bordeaux, France. He is an associate professor of ENT surgery at Al-Quds Medical School.

Under his direction, the ENT Department at AVH is the first in Palestine providing special surgeries and procedures not found anywhere else in the country. His outcomes and excellence in surgery brought him widespread recognition and respect. He performs no less than 25 surgeries a week. He has one assisting specialist and three fellows. His waiting list grows longer and longer by the day and stands at over three months on average.

I asked him how he feels about being at AVH. "It is my professional home-base," he said. "I have clinics in Ramallah and Hebron, but I only do my surgery and serious medical and surgical work at AVH."

Dr. Jihad El-Baba is a true example that excellence in medical delivery starts and ends with investing in professionals who believe and practice the culture of excellence.



As the surgical team performs an ear surgery, Dr. El-Baba looks on. Since 1999 he has been the head of the Ear, Nose and Throat Department at AVH and has conducted surgeries that are not available anywhere else in Palestine.



# COMMUNITY CENTERED

Isolated Villages are staying connected to healthcare through the services of the AVH Village Health Program

The village of Kharbatha Bani Harith sits on a hill west of Ramallah in the West Bank, its hillside dotted with olive groves tended by the local farmers. The town, which dates back to the time of the Canaanites and has one of the oldest existing olive presses in the region, is home to approximately 3,500 Muslim Palestinians. (In fact, records show that the only time a Christian family resided in Kharbatha Bani Harith was in the 1960s.) Israeli-operated roadways and a planned security wall will seal off most access to and from the village, and thus the majority of the town's inhabitants already work on site as farmers.

This sequestered and impoverished town is the site of one of the Lutheran World Federation's four village health clinics. The Village Health Program (VHP) was founded in the early 1950s to provide health services to West Bank villages without easy access to healthcare. Following the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, an armistice line, known as the Green Line, was drawn separating what is now known as Israel and the West Bank. It was the villagers on the side of the Jordanian-owned West Bank and near the Green Line that were most adversely affected, as they lived in close proximity to an active battlefield and were forced to fend for themselves. At this point, the LWF began its Village Health Program, providing medical services to civilians in as many as 25 villages.

Initially, mobile clinics were dispatched to the un-served and underserved areas in and around the cities of Hebron, Bethlehem, Nablus and Ramallah. Medical teams including a midwife, a nurse, a physician, and



Getting ready before patients arrive, Hedaya Abu Zayad, an AVH nurse, stocks the pharmacy shelves at the Village Health Clinic in Kharbatha Bani Harith. The LWF's village clinics provide medical care to villagers and in return the town councils provide a space for the clinic. In Kharbatha Bani Harith, the clinic is on the lower level of the village elementary school, and the space is shared with the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health, which runs an immunization clinic on the premises. Each of the village health clinics is outfitted with a pharmacy and also a medical lab where blood samples can be tested and analyzed.



At the Beit Liqya village health clinic, a doctor checks the blood pressure of a patient. The Beit Liqya clinic is the largest of the four village health clinics and sees the largest number of patients. LWF works at the clinic with a team from St. John's Eye Hospital. The St. John's team conducts eye exams, and the Augusta Victoria team offers general health care as well as pediatric and pre-natal care and a diabetes clinic.

a social worker would travel from town to town, offering services to the impoverished population. In the early 1970s, the LWF shifted from mobile clinics to more permanent medical facilities. Working in cooperation with the villages, the LWF staffed and equipped the clinic spaces donated by town councils. The first such clinic was in Qibia, one of the villages closest to the Green Line.

As the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health established public and charity clinics, the LWF gradually downscaled the Village Health Program so as to avoid duplication of and competition with government-funded medical services. Today, the LWF maintains its services in four of these border clinics, including the one in Kharbatha Bani Harith.

The village's medical facilities consist of one basic immunization clinic run by the Palestinian government, as well as the LWF clinic, which provides a wider scope of services and medications for chronic diseases.

The LWF clinic in Kharbatha Bani Harith treats an average of 170 patients every month and supplies medications and follow-up care to about 250 patients with chronic illnesses. Village health services also include a pediatric clinic and a diabetes program.



Pediatric care and counseling is available at the Kharbatha Bani Harith clinic, where this mother has brought her son for a check-up.

# PARTNERS IN CARE

**“Making Peace Through Health” initiative breaks through cultural barriers to connect medical staff and faculty**

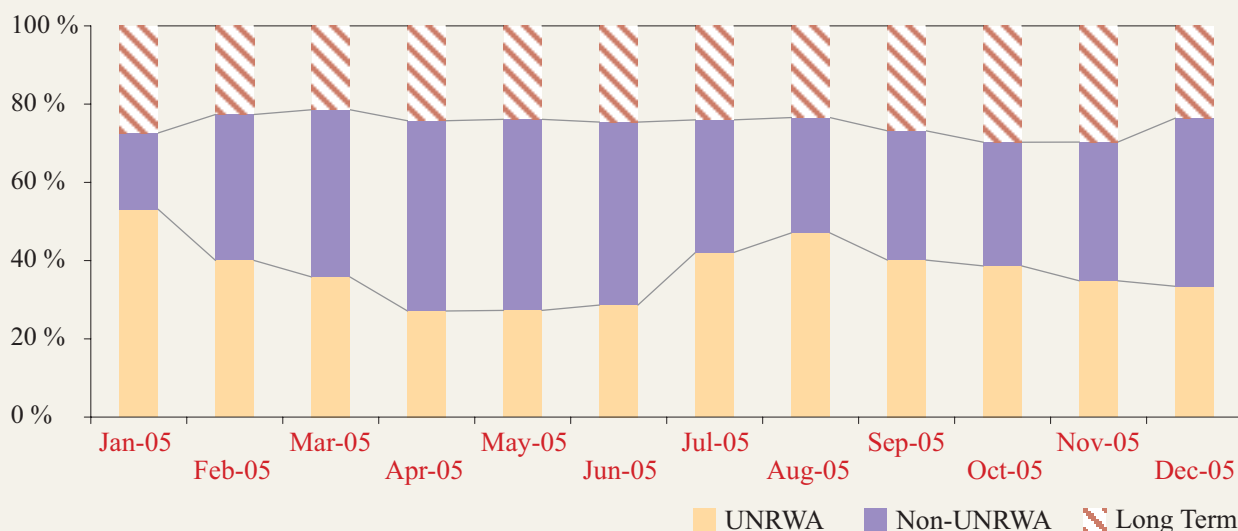
“Making Peace through Health” is a project that began in 2003 as a means to promote dialogue and interaction between Palestinian and Israeli healthcare professionals. The program resulted in a broader knowledge of patient care and also in professional relationships and personal friendships and connections that continue to help in strengthening a dialogue of peace.

In 2005, Augusta Victoria Hospital worked with multiple partners within the Israeli medical and healthcare community. Through the “Making Peace through Health” project, AVH staff receives training at Israeli medical centers among Israeli colleagues. This year, two AVH physicians in radiation oncology and six nurses from the AVH Cancer Care Center received training, along with two physicians who trained in advanced ENT surgery.

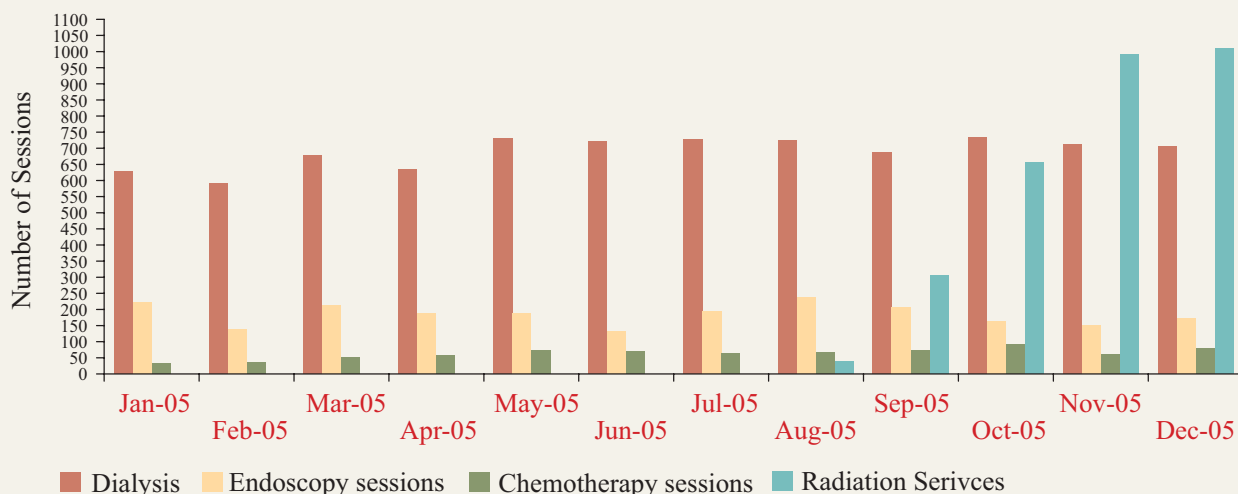
The AVH Cancer Care Center hosts weekly consultations and joint rounds with Israeli cancer experts who assist in training and managing patients admitted to the AVH. AVH also participated in a “Training and Emergency Medicine” workshop for senior medical and nursing faculty. The workshop included Palestinian and Israeli medical professionals and laid the foundation for future joint programs in the field of emergency medicine.

AVH continues to run the Making Peace through Health project in cooperation with the Peres Center for Peace, the Hadassah Medical Organization, the Middle East Cancer Consortium, Rambam Hospital, and Sheba Medical Center.

## Percent Hospital Days by Patient Type



## Outpatient Speciality Services





# AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL

## Board of Governance

### **Bishop Munib Younan (AVH Board Chairperson)**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

### **Dr. Emile Jarjoui (AVH Board Vice-chairperson)**

Medical Director, Caritas Baby Hospital (Retired) and Chairman, East Jerusalem Hospital Forum

### **Rev. Dr. Robert Bacher**

ELCA / Executive for Administration (Retired)

### **Dr. Malte von Bargaen\***

Advocate with Andersen Luther  
Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Stiftung

### **Dr. Rainward Bastian**

German Institute for Medical Mission

### **Rev. Mark Brown (Ex-officio)**

LWF Regional Representative

### **Mr. Robert Granke (Ex-officio)\*\***

Director, LWF Department for World Service

### **Dr. Ragnhild Hvidt**

Physician/ DanChurchAid

### **Rev. Aage Muller-Nilssen**

Kirkens Bymisjon / Church of Norway

### **Propst Martin Reyer\*\*\***

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer – Jerusalem  
Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Stiftung

### **Bishop Anders Wejryd**

Diocese of Växjö, Church of Sweden

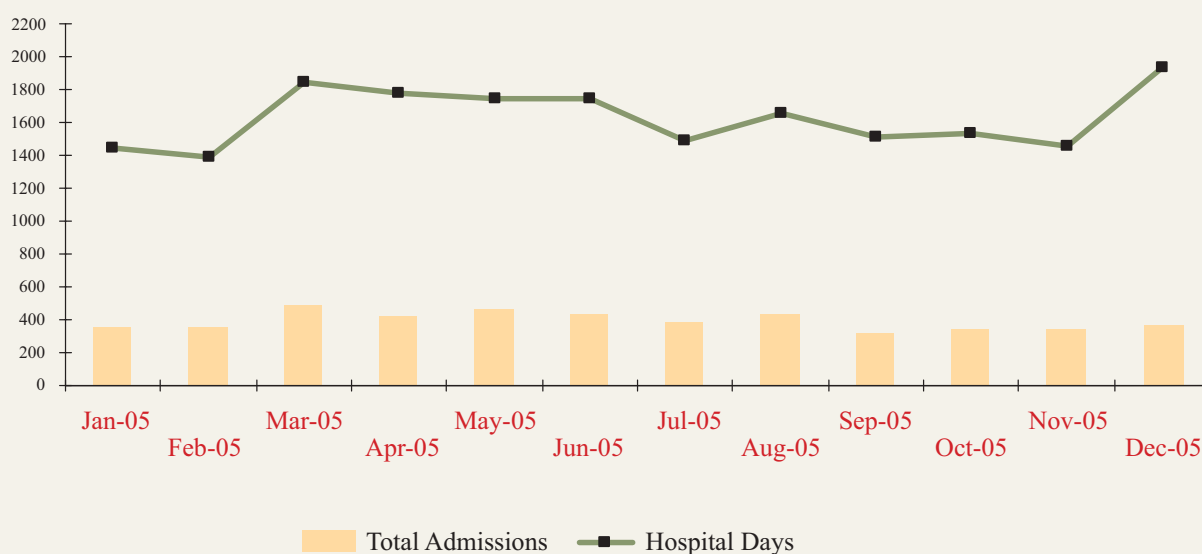
Completed service on AVH Board:

\* in December 2005 and was replaced by Dr. Eberhard von Perfall;

\*\* in February 2006;

\*\*\* in March 2006.

## Hospital Indicators



# RAISING HOPES AND HOMES

**The Mount of Olives Housing Project will help to strengthen the presence of Palestinian Christians in Jerusalem**

At the top of the list of the Lutheran World Federation's upcoming developments on the property is the Mount of Olives Housing Project. Housing is a critical issue for the Palestinian population of Jerusalem these days. A shortage of affordable housing has been pushing Muslim and Christian Palestinians out of Jerusalem in the past years, forcing families to relocate to the West Bank and, thus, relinquish their rights as Jerusalemites. Palestinian Christians in particular have been affected by this housing crisis, and their numbers are dwindling in Jerusalem.

The southeast corner of the LWF property has been set aside for the 84 housing units that will make up the Mount of Olives Housing Project. Each rental unit will provide a home for a Christian Palestinian family, and as young families



achieve financial stability some may move elsewhere and thereby open up an opportunity to another family in need. The housing project will help to maintain a Christian Palestinian presence in Jerusalem, and apartments will be granted according to need. Along with Jerusalem residency come many rights, such as the ability to work in the city and move about freely. Jerusalemites are also eligible for pensions and health care which are much more difficult to attain in the West Bank. When a family moves from Jerusalem, their residency and rights are revoked; for those that relocate to the West Bank, maintaining a steady income is a much harder task.

Dozens of olive trees have been moved and replanted to clear the land for the housing project. It is hoped that construction will begin in April of 2007, although a section of a retaining wall was already completed in 2005. This wall will provide security and physical support to the project. The finished homes will have a striking view across the Jordan Valley to the Dead Sea.

The LWF believes that the presence of an empowered Christian minority in Jerusalem is vital to the peace process. The churches, schools and health services of the Palestinian Christian community often act in peace-keeping roles between Israelis and Palestinians. By integrating Christians, Muslims, and Jews, Jerusalem will be seen as a shared city of many faiths and as a model of peace and reconciliation. The LWF, by providing homes for Palestinian Christians, will help to maintain the presence of a dwindling population that is necessary for achieving peace and acceptance.

## Housing Project Appeal



The Lutheran World Federation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the Kaiserin Auguste Victoria Foundation are partners in the Mount of Olives Housing Project. In total, the project will require \$8,000,000

USD, broken down as follows:

- US Donors: \$2,000,000
- European Partners: \$4,000,000
- Financing and other donations: \$2,000,000

For more information about the Mount of Olives Housing Project, visit [www.lwfjerusalem.org](http://www.lwfjerusalem.org) and click on the 'HousingProject' link. If you are interested in supporting the Mount of Olives Housing Project, please contact the LWF at [info@lwfjerusalem.org](mailto:info@lwfjerusalem.org) or +972.2.628.2289. Or write to:

**Rev. Mark B. Brown**

The Lutheran World Federation  
P.O. Box 19178  
Jerusalem 91191  
Israel

## Some Facts about Housing in Jerusalem

There were only 27,000 existing housing units for Palestinians in East Jerusalem in 2001 for a population of 210,000 people. An additional 21,000 housing units were needed to alleviate the shortage.

- Palestinian housing has continued to be built at about 50 units a year, while Israeli housing has accelerated at an exponential pace with huge settlements being built on Palestinian land in the West Bank.\*
- 20 % of Palestinians live in homes with more than 3 people per room. Only 1.5% of Israelis live in such homes.\*
- 44% of East Jerusalem is zoned as "Green Areas," meaning that the land cannot be developed at all by those who own it.\*
- Of all construction started in Jerusalem in 2002, 80% of the buildings were in Jewish neighborhoods, and 19% were in Palestinian neighborhoods.\*\*
- In 2004 and 2005, 198 homes in East Jerusalem were demolished because proper permits had not been obtained. 594 Palestinians lost their homes this way.\*\*

Sources: \* PriceWaterhouse Coopers  
\*\* B'Tselem, The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights

## New Improvements LWF works to renovate and secure the Mount of Olives property with improvement projects



The LWF completed a variety of projects on the Mount of Olives campus. Much work was done repairing and erecting boundary walls and protective fences around the campus. Boundary walls on the northwest side of the campus and a segment on the southeast corner were completed in 2005. Metalworking students from the VTC provided much of the skilled labor for new and repaired fences.



# SERVING THOSE MOST IN NEED

A scholarship program and distribution of humanitarian supplies extend the network of ties between the LWF and the Palestinian community



Every year, the Lutheran World Federation distributes humanitarian supplies to refugees and people living in poverty in the Holy Land. Among these supplies are quilts made by women from Lutheran congregations across the United States. In 2005 Susanne Brown volunteered to help deliver school kits and quilts to the Lazarus Home for Girls. The items were donated through Lutheran World Relief. The Lazarus Home for Girls is an orphanage that reaches young girls who are homeless or parentless in Palestine, providing them with a home and education and allowing siblings to stay together - boys and girls live in different orphanages, but attend school together. In December, the LWF and Lazarus Home hosted a holiday party for the girls who each received a new quilt for her bed.



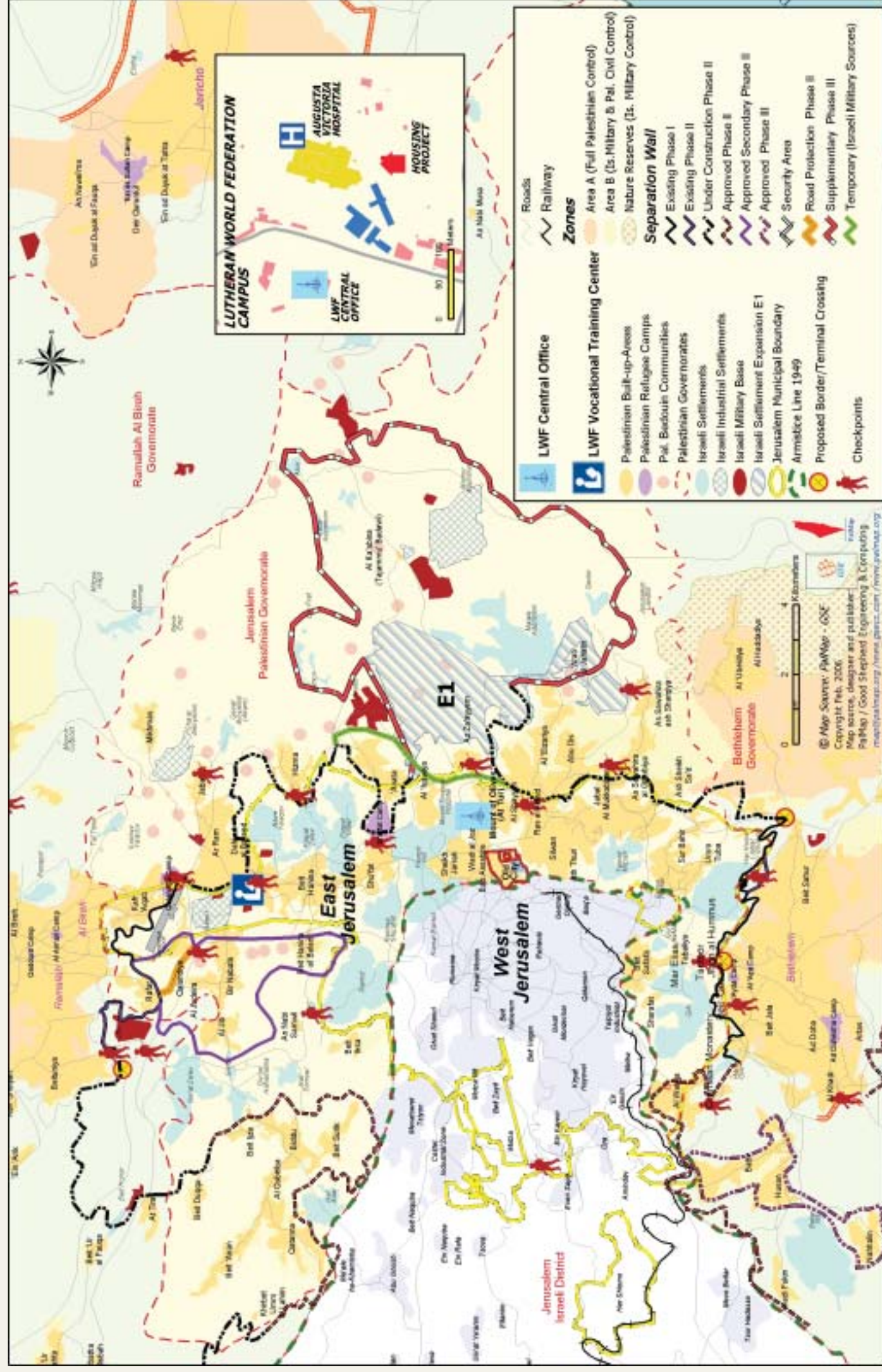
Tulkarm Camp is the second largest refugee camp in the West Bank, a place of staggering poverty and frequent violence between militant groups and the Israel Army. Future Generation Kindergarten in Tulkarm Camp is crowded and poorly furnished for the children who attend the school, but the two- to six-year-old students are still enthusiastic to attend the kindergarten, to learn, and to interact with other children from the camp. The Lutheran World Federation donated 25 teddy bears to the Future Generation Kindergarten, which has almost no toys for its students. Each bear had the name of a student on it, and members of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) delivered the bears to the children.

Every year, the Lutheran World Federation offers educational scholarships to Palestinian youth in the local community. These scholarships allow the students to receive university educations that they otherwise would not be able to afford. The educational loans and occasional grants offered by the LWF are awarded on the basis of financial need and academic performance. Recipients are eligible for four years of scholarship assistance through LWF and are expected to maintain a GPA of 80 percent or better.

There are 23 scholarship recipients for the 2005-2006 school year. The 14 female and nine male students represent both the Muslim and Christian faiths and matriculate at Birzeit University, Al Quds University, and Bethlehem University. Collectively, they cover a wide range of programs of study, including accounting, Arabic literature, arts, business, chemistry, dentistry, engineering, English language, information technology, medical technology, medicine, physiotherapy, and sociology. The students come from the towns of Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Abu Dis, 'Abud, Beit Jala, Beit Hanina, Beit Sahur, Hebron, Shu'fat Camp, Bethany, and As Sawahira. The Lutheran World Federation would like to congratulate all 23 scholars for their continued academic excellence.



## Map 1: Jerusalem





# WALL-TO-WALL CHALLENGES

**The Separation Wall has become increasingly impenetrable for students of the LWF's Vocational Training Center (VTC)**

The Separation Wall cutting through the neighborhood of the VTC was not completed during 2005 as planned. Students and staff from the West Bank continued to come to the center. However, Israeli forces increased their harassment of West Bankers with flying checkpoints near the VTC. Flying checkpoints can be set up on any roadway and involve Israeli soldiers or police stopping all vehicles and checking the identity papers and permits of passengers. On a few occasions, students were forbidden to reach the VTC, and some were arrested for a few hours and released after being forced to sign documents, which were in a language they could not read. Such measures demonstrate the impact of the Separation Wall once it is completed: West Bank Palestinians will be completely blocked off from East Jerusalem.

The VTC is responding to the current situation by continuing its advocacy for the free accessibility of students and staff from the West Bank. The program was able to achieve a short-term solution by obtaining permits, but these were valid for only three months and could not be used during Jewish holidays and other events. The main challenge now is to obtain long-term permits to ensure that all students and staff of the VTC are able to continue with the program.

Movement from one section of a town to another is much more difficult or impossible since the start of the Wall. In Abu Dis, a suburb of East Jerusalem, residents climb through a rocky gap to reach their homes.





## The LWF is battling the immobility imposed by the Separation Wall with an expanded busing program

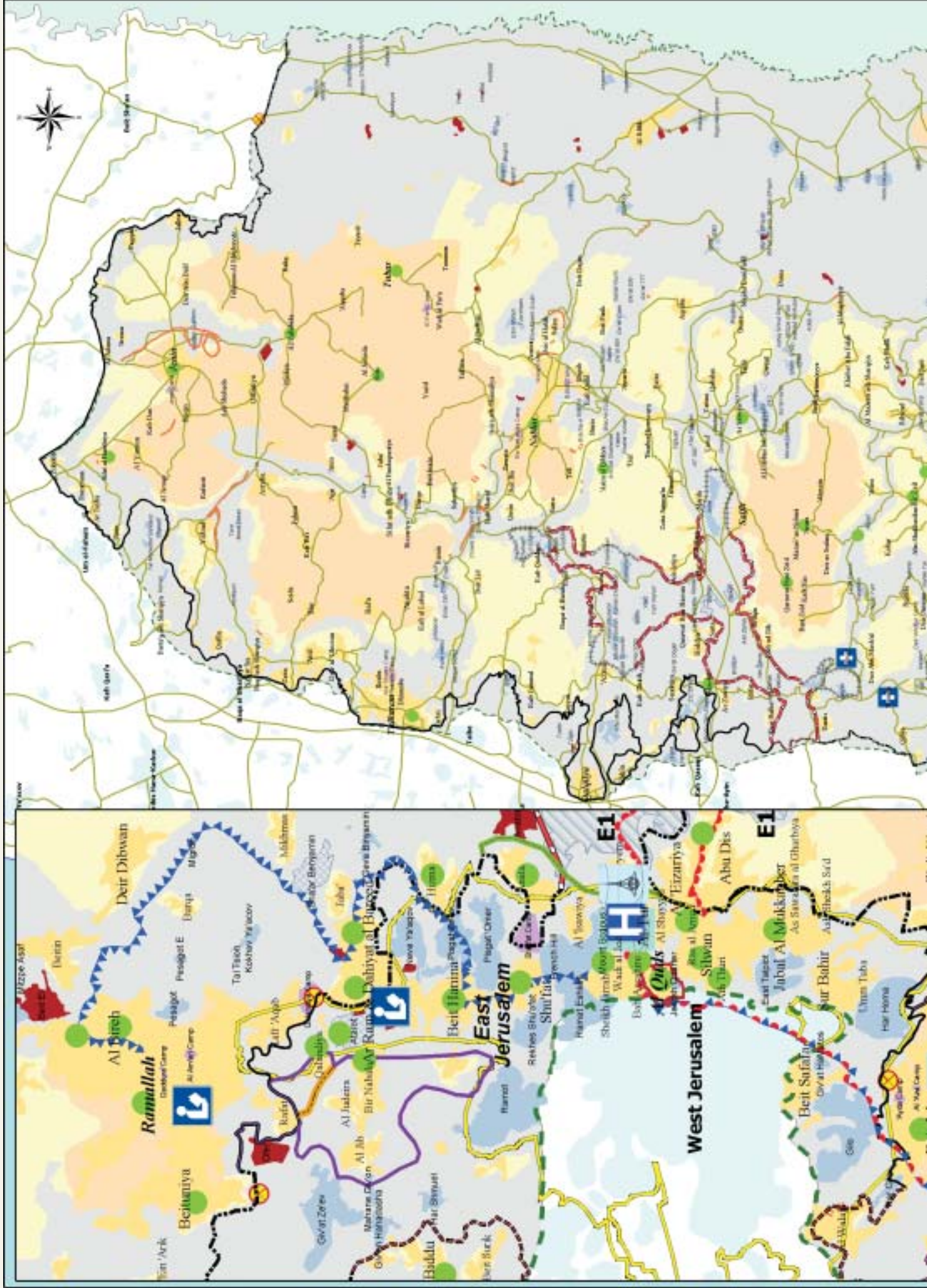
For residents of Beit Jala, a town less than 20 kilometers south of Jerusalem, a morning commute normally involves three hours of waiting at a checkpoint. With the building of the Separation Wall, life in the West Bank has become increasingly difficult. Access to jobs, schools, and health care rarely occurs without waiting—hours waiting at checkpoints and months waiting for travel permits.

To counteract the limited mobility of its staff and patients, Augusta Victoria Hospital instituted a busing system, a reliable and efficient way for people to reach their jobs or necessary health services offered at the hospital. Every morning at 5:00 a.m., a bus leaves the AVH grounds, driving south to the outskirts of Hebron, Bethlehem and Beit Jala where it picks up hospital employees and patients. For some, essential medical procedures such as kidney dialysis would be unobtainable if it weren't for the transportation provided by the AVH busing system.

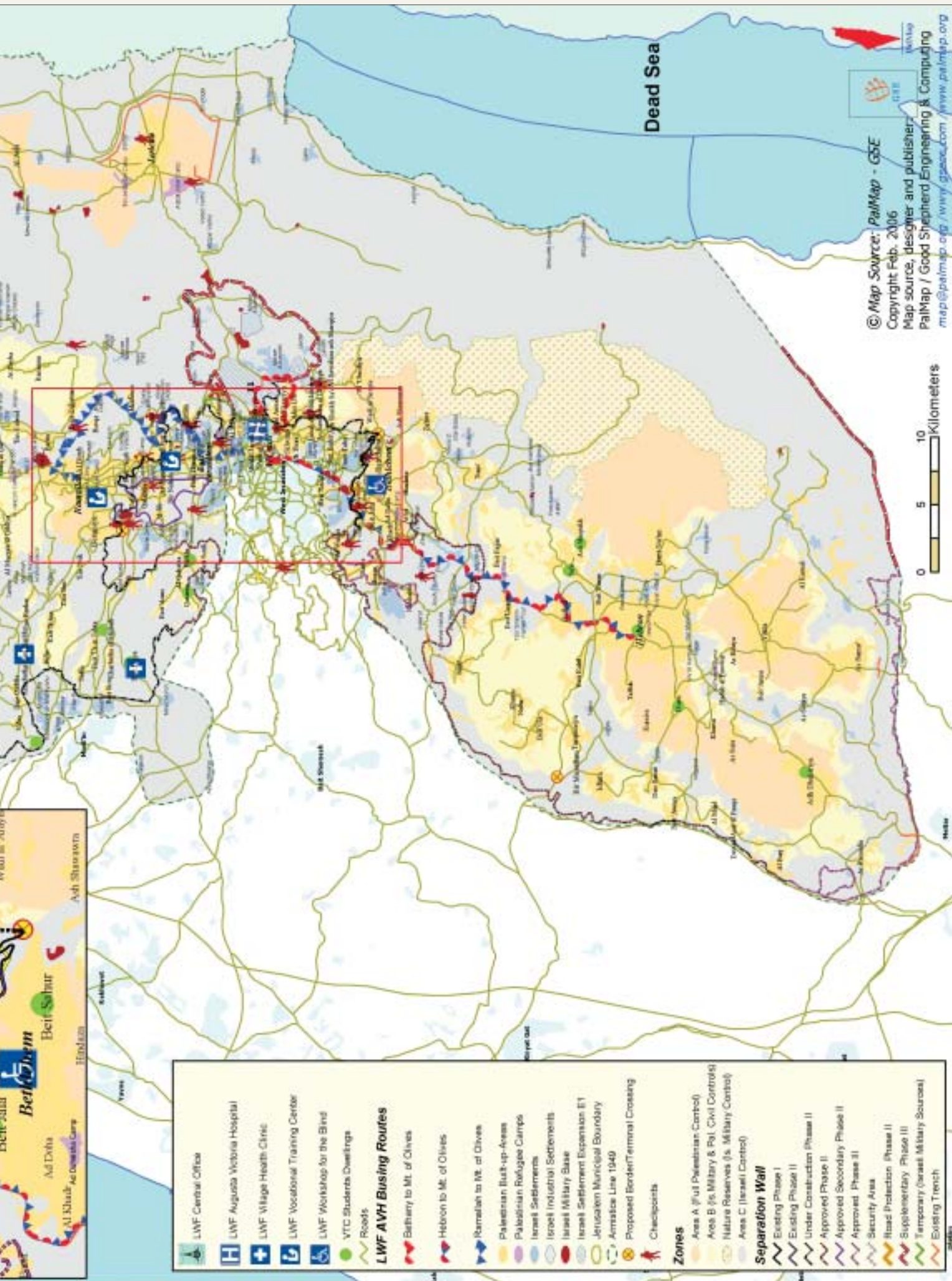
The AVH bus still passes through checkpoints and is sometimes stopped for the lengthy process of checking the permits of everyone on board. But on days when the bus is waved through without being stopped, cheers erupt from the passengers who will reach the hospital without the waiting that has become commonplace since the construction of the Wall. The free transport for patients has been increasingly popular as more and more areas of the West Bank are cut off from Jerusalem. As the Wall stretches and grows, so too does the need for the busing system.













# LIFE TRAINING

**The Vocational Training Center celebrates its fifty-third graduating class and fourth class of female graduates**

Eighty-eight students celebrated their graduation from the LWF Vocational Training Center (VTC) this year, the fifty-third year in the program's history and the fourth year the graduates have included female students. The June ceremony honored the accomplishments of students who had spent the last two years studying in the fields of auto mechanics, auto electronics, carpentry, metal work, telecommunications, or plumbing and central heating. The telecommunications program claimed the largest number of graduates with 21, including all nine of the female graduates.

Given the continuing current economic, social and political hardships, there was an encouraging rate of enrollment by students from the West Bank as well as from East Jerusalem. The VTC, which trains 100 students each year, received more than 200 applications for the 2005 school year, and saw a 43 percent rise in applicants from East Jerusalem. The most applicant interest this year was in the telecommunications and auto mechanics programs. As a response, a second auto electronics student group was added. The number of students in the boarding section decreased from 50 percent to 35 percent, and there was a major decrease in the number of women who were enrolled this year.

Because of high unemployment and poverty rates in the community, many students were unable to pay their educational fees. A working program was instituted, in which needy students could pay off their tuition by working in the field in which they were training. Other students were granted waivers until they found work after graduation and could begin to pay off their debts.



Female graduates of the VTC's class of 2005 line up with their classmates at the graduation ceremony. The ceremony was held on the campus of the VTC in Beit Hanina and students' families and friends attended. This was the fourth group of female graduates from the VTC, and the program continues to perform outreach in order to attract more female students.

## In its first year, the Vocational Training Center in Ramallah (VTCR) has introduced new approaches to vocational education

The Lutheran World Federation established the Vocational Training Center in Ramallah (VTCR) in order to develop new, even more effective systems of vocational training and to reach out to students unable to gain access to the Vocational Training Center (VTC) in the Jerusalem suburb of Beit Hanina. Various Israeli measures such as road closures, blockades, and the construction of the Separation Wall have sealed off certain towns and made it impossible for their citizens to access jobs and schools elsewhere. The VTCR was established in the hope of counteracting this imposed immobility.

Since its start in October 2004, the VTCR has succeeded in running the following programs:

- **Apprentice training:** This program allows the trainees to conduct over half of their training in the workplace under the supervision of the trainers and the VTCR.
- **Village outreach:** The VTCR travels to remote villages in the West Bank, reaching unemployed women and youth in their own villages and conducting short training courses.
- **Upgrading courses:** The VTCR acts as a technical resource in the community by holding market development trainings for alumni. These trainings, which upgrade skills, keep alumni abreast of market standards and make them a stronger resource in the workplace.
- **Teacher trainings:** By teaching the skills involved in training students, VTCR trainers become a resource for other vocational and educational institutes in Palestine.
- **Female training:** The VTCR works to integrate women into the telecommunications courses, providing an underserved population with job skills and employment opportunities.
- **Entrepreneurial training:** Along with basic job skills, information about self-employment is presented in the apprenticeship and village training programs.

Having finished welding a section of fencing, two VTC metalwork trainees carry the fence outside for painting. Protective fencing that surrounds the Augusta Victoria Hospital grounds was produced by VTC students, simulating a market transaction.



At the Vocational Training Center in Ramallah, VTCR director Randa Hilal speaks with LWF Regional Representative Rev. Mark Brown to a group of automechanics trainees. Students at the VTCR enroll for one year of training, as opposed to the VTC's two-year program. The apprentice training program run by the VTCR provides a more intensive learning environment for the students.

# LEADING BY EXAMPLE

## Female students gain job skills and empowerment through the VT program

Nayfeh Al-Khawajah is a trainee at the VTCR in the telecommunications field. A third generation refugee from Jaffa, she lives in Ni'lin village west of Ramallah with the other ten members of her family. Her father can't work continuously due to an illness, which led her younger brother to drop out of school and work as a day laborer in order to help support the family. Nayfeh decided to enroll at the VTCR because the program offered a quick entrance to the job market. Nayfeh feels that training will lead her to employment, to self-assertiveness and to empowerment. She wants to serve her community as well as support her family, and she wants to be a model for other women who want to work. Her family is proud of her and will be even more so when she becomes economically active.

Because of the high cost of transportation, which increased even more due to the closures associated with the Separation Wall, Nayfeh and the four other women enrolled at the VTCR were unable to pay the travel costs necessary in reaching the center. The VT program realizes the importance of providing women with job skills and empowering them to support themselves and their families. Because an increased female enrollment is important to the VTC and VTCR, the LWF covered the travel costs for the five women, ensuring that they could reach the VTCR for training.

Nayfeh is one of the 13 women being trained in the VT program this year, and will be part of the fifth class of female graduates, bringing up the number of LWF female alumni to over 55.

While many VT graduates have found employment after graduation, it was noted in this year's evaluation that graduates of the telecommunications program did not have employment rates as high as the other sections. One cause for this is the fact that high unemployment rates have forced graduate-level engineers and technicians to find jobs as skilled workers. The LWF-VT program has tried to remedy this by introducing new skills into the telecommunications training that may lead to better chances of employment. One goal of the LWF-VT strategy is to identify another field of training that employs high numbers of women, so as to increase the vocational program options for female students of the VTC and VTCR.



A computer program teaching mobile phone maintenance is used at the VTCR where Nayfeh Al-Khawajah is a student in the telecommunications program. Nayfeh is one of five women enrolled at the VTCR and will use her job skills to help support her family after she graduates.



## A new apprenticeship program has resulted in a successful employment rate among graduates

The Vocational Training Center in Ramallah (VTCR) graduated its first group of students from the apprentice training program in 2005. Apprentice training, an eleven month program, uses a practical and hands-on approach, with 60 percent of the training carried out in the marketplace under the supervision of the center. One hundred percent of the carpentry students and 94 percent of the auto mechanics students in VTCR's first graduating class found employment within two months of graduation. Training has proved to be cost effective, market-relevant and responsive to the needs of the students. Early exposure to the job market has also helped in making strong relations with business owners and future employers. "Training [students] at the workshops has met my needs as a workshop owner in finding the right skilled worker I needed to employ," said a business owner at a program evaluation. "[My apprentice] became acquainted with the market relations and that is important to me." The evaluation took place in September and focused on the experiences of graduates in their search for employment.

Apprentice training has proven to be a successful route to employment. It matches the needs of VT students, most of whom come from families living in poverty, with the needs of the job market. The continuing deterioration of the Palestinian economy has forced many out of work over the past five years. Providing students with useful skills helps to combat the steep unemployment rates.

Abdullah I'ja'q is one of the 59 trainees who enrolled in the apprentice training program at the VTCR in September of 2005. Abdullah, age 18, is one of eight children. Due to the poor economy and the closure of roads around Ramallah, Abdullah's father has been unable to find more than five days of construction work each month. Abdullah, who is studying auto mechanics, travels from a village near Ramallah each day, but it takes him an hour to reach the center because of blockades and road closures. Abdullah has accomplished the three months of basic training at the center and is now an apprentice at one of the car companies in Ramallah. For three days a week he works at the auto shop and the other two days he is at the VTCR with his fellow students.

Despite all the obstacles Abdullah faces, he is always on time, active, diligent, and committed to the work and the profession he chose to study. He is determined to accomplish his training and start working as quickly as possible so he can assist his father in supporting the family. He believes that determination and persistence are the keys to success. There are many other determined trainees like Abdullah who have witnessed the success of previous VTCR graduates and have seen the jobs that have arisen out of apprenticeship training.



At the auto shop where he apprentices, trainee Abdullah I'ja'q receives instruction from his employer. Abdullah, like other students enrolled in the apprentice training program, spends two days a week with instructors at the VTCR and three days a week at his apprenticeship which is located on the outskirts of Ramallah. He hopes that his job experience will help him to find work quickly after completing the program.

## The LWF's VT programs have played an important role in the shaping of Palestine's national vocational system

The Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system of Palestine has worked to build a solid base of skilled workers through vocational training. The Palestinian people and the LWF see TVET as an important system, one with the potential to lead people out of poverty and to strengthen the Palestinian economy. The LWF's Vocational Training Centers in Jerusalem (VTC) and Ramallah (VTCR) have been deeply involved in the process of developing and upgrading the national TVET system, acting as models of successful VT programs and staying involved in the leadership and planning committees of the growing system.

In 1994, efforts began to unify Palestine's vocational training programs into the TVET system, and in 1999 the Palestinian TVET Strategy was drafted. The Strategy was developed to enhance the quality and relevance of the national vocational training system, and the VTC introduced a successful model for the system.

In several ways, the LWF-VT program has been highly influential in the development and implementation of TVET. The VTC graduates of 2002 were the first in Palestine to graduate from a training center implementing the TVET Strategy. The 2005 graduates of the VTCR one-year apprenticeship program were the first graduates of such a system in Palestine and proved the success of the program. Other practices of the VTC and VTCR, such as outreach to women and to remote villages, have also been presented in various TVET workshops. VTC and VTCR students and facilities have been featured in informational films and television programs produced for TVET. The LWF-VT program has used these films in TVET awareness campaigns presented in schools and communities in Palestine.

Along with acting as a model for vocational training, the LWF has been involved in the leadership of the TVET development. Ms. Randa Hilal, the director of the VTCR, sits on the TVET higher council as the LWF

*A class of young schoolgirls listens as female students at the VTC in Beit Hanina explain the telecommunications program they are enrolled in. The VT program hopes to increase its numbers of female students by adding another program besides telecommunications that will lead to job opportunities for women. Local schools are encouraged to introduce their students to the VT program at an early age so as to see the options available to women who want to further their education.*







Apprenticeship students at the VTCR receive instruction from a trainer in the auto mechanics department. The apprenticeship program was the first of its kind in Palestine and has been used as a model for other vocational training programs under the national system.

representative and participates in the policy-making of the system. She also took part in the creation of the TVET website, preparing the information on gender issues and work with NGOs. The VTCR also hosted an aluminum training course in August 2005, training vocational teachers and trainers who took their new skills to vocational training programs throughout Palestine.

## Play Space

The VTC was instrumental in designing and constructing the playground that now stands adjacent to Augusta Victoria Hospital. The wood construction offers a place to play to children who are patients at the hospital, are visiting family at the hospital, or are enrolled in the kindergarten that is located on the AVH grounds.





# VOCATIONAL EXCHANGE

Ideas and cultures are shared through a co-op between the VTC and a vocational school in Norway



VTC director Francis Gharfeh and the director of the Eidsvoll Vocational School hold high the signed protocol of cooperation. The protocol officially marked the exchange program between the schools and planned for the development of future co-programs.

Two exchange visits took place this year between the VTC in Jerusalem and Eidsvoll Vocational School in Norway. After these two initial visits, a new cooperation and exchange program was born between the two institutions.

In October, an instructor and two students from Eidsvoll school traveled to Jerusalem where they stayed for one week as guests of the VTC. At the end of the week, the three returned to Norway, along with VTC director Francis Gharfeh and two VTC students.

Eidsvoll students and their families welcomed the VTC group to Norway and organized an international week dedicated

to the VTC and Palestine. Events that week shed light on the military occupation of Palestine, the Separation Wall, and other oppressive measures that the Israeli government imposes on the daily life of Palestinians. Eidsvoll and the VTC also organized a fundraiser while in Norway, raising money to develop more co-programs in the future.

The headmasters of both institutions signed a protocol of cooperation for future development of exchange programs. Such programs may include workshops, participation in events, and exchange of technical support and personnel. As a sign of solidarity and support, the Eidsvoll Vocational School gave the VTC valuable equipment to be used in the auto mechanics workshop.



A steel diorama of the Separation Wall draws the attention of VTC director Francis Gharfeh and two students during the international week hosted by the Eidsvoll Vocational School in Norway. Gharfeh, along with two VTC students, was invited to Norway as part of a cultural and educational exchange program established this year. Eidsvoll students arranged activities and designed projects that raised awareness of the political situation in Palestine.

## Planning for the Future

In July 2005, strategic planning for the vocational training program began. Involving several workshops and discussions, and the input of several groups, the process of strategic planning will continue until May of 2006. The plan that is developed will act as a foundation for the development of the vocational training program from 2007 through 2013. The main goals of the planning session were to evaluate the VT program in relation to the LWF mission, to give direction and priority to the expenditures of financial and human resources, and to increase the effectiveness of the VT program in responding to the needs of the trainees considering the uncertain political environment.

Mr. Ralf Lang, a consultant from Enterprise Development and Employment Promotion in Germany, was hired to help facilitate the workshops. He and Ms. Randa Hilal, the VT consultant and VTCR director, led the strategic planning team through a series of workshops, focus groups and discussions that analyzed different aspects of the VT program. Before the start of strategic planning, trainees and graduates of the VTC and VTCR were asked to participate by giving feedback on the strengths of the programs and the needs of the students. To take into account external viewpoints, the VTC asked for input from shop owners and employers involved with the apprentice training program and from donors to the VT program.

The strategic planning workshop was done in three phases. First, with the participation of the staff, the team leaders facilitated a workshop in English and Arabic that developed the initial strategic aims and goals. Once a plan was drafted, the LWF-VT advisory board joined in the strategic planning process, helping in the shaping of the draft. The third phase involved the VTC and VTCR staff agreeing upon the revised plan, then drafting a plan of action through a participatory workshop.

The process of strategic planning began in 1999 as a way to form a solid plan for the future of the Vocational Training Center. Each strategic planning session plans for the changes the VT program can expect in the coming years and how it can be ready for unforeseen changes.

For part of the strategic planning process, Ralf Lange, a consultant from Germany, was invited to the VTC to facilitate the workshop. This segment of strategic planning followed initial interviews and forums with graduates, employers and donors associated with the VT program. The ongoing process of strategic planning plans for internal and external changes affecting the VT program for the years 2007 through 2013. Funding from Bread for the World in Germany made the Ralf Lange consultancy possible.



# OUTREACH PIONEERING

The VTCR uses innovative strategies to reach students in isolated areas

Since the initiation of work on the Separation Wall in 2003, the Vocational Training program has faced the challenge of reaching youth who are unable to move freely through the West Bank. Because so many students are unable to reach the VT centers in Beit Hanina and Ramallah, the LWF set up a mobile training program that would reach villages that were isolated by the Separation Wall or were badly affected by the deteriorating economic situation. The following three villages were selected for village outreach in 2005:

- **Bil'in Village:**

Bil'in had two courses in 2005. A course in mobile phone maintenance was provided for women, and a course in aluminum was offered for male youth. Bil'in is a village 20 kilometers to the west of Ramallah. Fifty percent of its land has been confiscated for encroaching Israeli settlement areas and for the building of the Separation Wall. Most of the work force of Bil'in has turned to agriculture in order to survive. The unemployment rate has skyrocketed since the building of the Wall.

- **At Tira Village:**

The town of At Tira has suffered from high unemployment rates because of a nearby settlement, which was built on At Tira's confiscated land. Seven women from this village tried to enroll in the apprentice training program at the Ramallah center, but were unable to pay the transportation costs. A special short-term course in AUTO-CAD and architectural drawing was created for the women and transportation was arranged so they could reach the training center in Ramallah.

- **At Tayba Village**

At Tayba is a predominantly Christian village to the east of Ramallah. The unemployment rate is high in the village. To counteract this, the LWF started a course in November of 2005 on mobile phone maintenance, open to both males and females from At Tayba and neighboring villages.



A course in mobile phone maintenance was offered to female students in the town of Bil'in in 2005. The VTCR takes extra steps in reaching female students and students from small villages, as these populations are underserved. Coverage of transportation costs and village-based training courses have helped in making VT training available to a wider population.



# FUND RAISERS

Donations, tuition and student labor combine to support the VT program

The VTC receives a major part of its annual funds from donors who contribute at least 50 percent of the program's annual budget. The remainder of the funding is obtained from training fees and income from VTC projects. Because the mission of the LWF is to serve the needy and the underprivileged, the students cover only twelve percent of the annual budget with their tuition. However, many trainees, particularly women, have difficulties in fulfilling their debts and fees. Therefore, the VTC instituted a working program, in which the neediest students could earn money by working in the field in which they were training. During 2005, more than 60 students took part in this working program.

Another important component of the funding is the income generated through production of goods, which makes up about 30 percent of the VTC annual budget. As a source of products and labor, the VTC and VTCR take part in market simulations, letting students see their training used in a real-world context.



A portion of the funding for the VT program comes directly from earned income. As part of an extensive process of boundary fence repairs, three students from the VTC and their instructor install a fence on the grounds of the Lutheran World Federation's Mount of Olives campus. The LWF contracts the VTC when possible, and pays the school for its labor and supplies.

## The Lutheran World Federation

### Vocational Training Advisory Board

**Rev. Robert Bacher (VTAB Chairperson)**  
ELCA / Executive for Administration (Retired)

**Ms. Monika Beaux\***  
Lutheran World Federation/World Service – Geneva

**Rev. Mark Brown (Ex-officio)**  
LWF Regional Representative

**Mr. Francis Gharfeh (Ex-officio)**  
Director, LWF Vocational Training Center – Beit Hanina

**Mrs. Randa Hilal (Ex-officio)**  
Director, LWF Vocational Training Center – Ramallah

**Ms. Jorunn Kapstad**  
Norwegian Church Aid

**Diana Kattan**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

**Ms. Ulrike Kipp**  
LWF - Germany (DNLWKZW)

**Mr. Walid Nammour\*\***  
Center for Continuing Education  
Birzeit University

**Ms. Ulrika Persson\*\*\***  
Church of Sweden

**Mr. Goran Rask\***  
Church of Sweden

\* Left Advisory Board in December 2005

\*\* Joined Advisory Board in September 2005

\*\*\*Joined Advisory Board in December 2005

# EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS OF RECENT GRADUATES

Because the VTC operates a market-relevant training program, it tracks closely the employment rates of its graduates. Of the interviewed graduates of the 2005 class, 77 percent were employed shortly after graduation. Two workshops were held with the graduates in order to discuss their experiences in the job search and self-employment.

## LWF-Vocational Training Students Data (2005)

### LWF-VTC

Department	Year the Department was Established	No. of Students 2005/2006		No. of Graduates
		First Year	Second Year	
Auto Mechanics	1964	16	12	15
Auto-Tronics (car electricity & electronics)	2003	28 <sup>1</sup>		14
Carpentry	1950	16	14	13
Electronics/Telecommunications (Female)	2000	3	6	9
Electronics/Telecommunications (Male)	2001	10	7	12
Plumbing and Central Heating	1988	11	13	10
Welding Forging and Aluminum Works	1950	14	14	15
Theory	1964	All Students		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>88</b>

### LWF-VTCR

Department	Year the Department was Established	No. of Students 2005/2006	No. of Graduates
All one Year System:		One year system	
Auto Mechanics	2004	16	19
Carpentry	2004	12	9
Electronics/Telecommunications (Female)	2004	7	2
Electronics/Telecommunications (Male)	2004	9	11
Aluminum <sup>2</sup>	2005	15	0
Theory	2004	All Students	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>41</b>

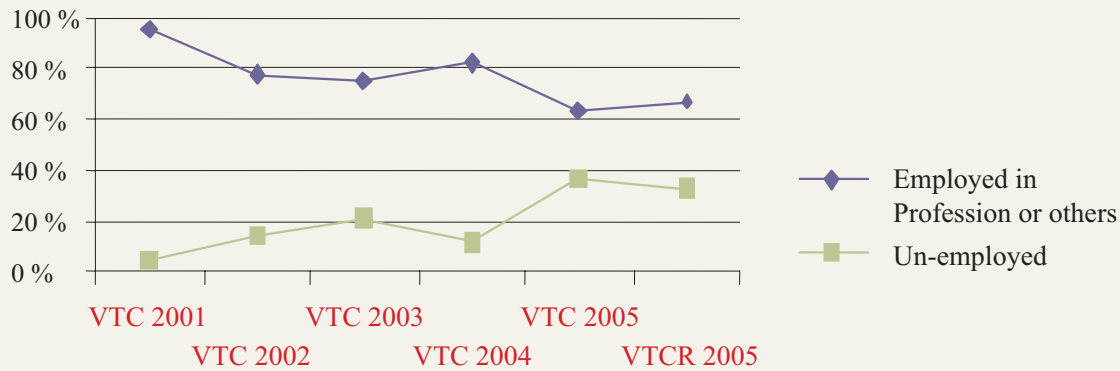
### Multiple System Trainees Data

System	Accreditation	Duration	Output of System	#of trainees
Vocational training (05/06)	Min. of Education	2 years	Skilled Labor	168
Vocational training (05/06)	Min. of Labor	6month-1year	Semi-Skilled Labor	87
Tawjihi (Last Year in High school) (05/06)	Min. of Education	300 hours	Tawjihi	12
Courses at the villages ( March-July)	Self	100-140	Limited-skilled	29
Courses at the villages (Sept-Dec)	Self	100-140	Limited-skilled	27
Courses for the unemployed youth/ VTC ( Jan-Sept 05)	Self	100-140	Limited-skilled	36
Upgrading courses for the market	Min. of Labor	30-300hours	upgrading	18
Training of trainers in Aluminum	Min. of Labor	30-300 hours	Trainers upgrading	17

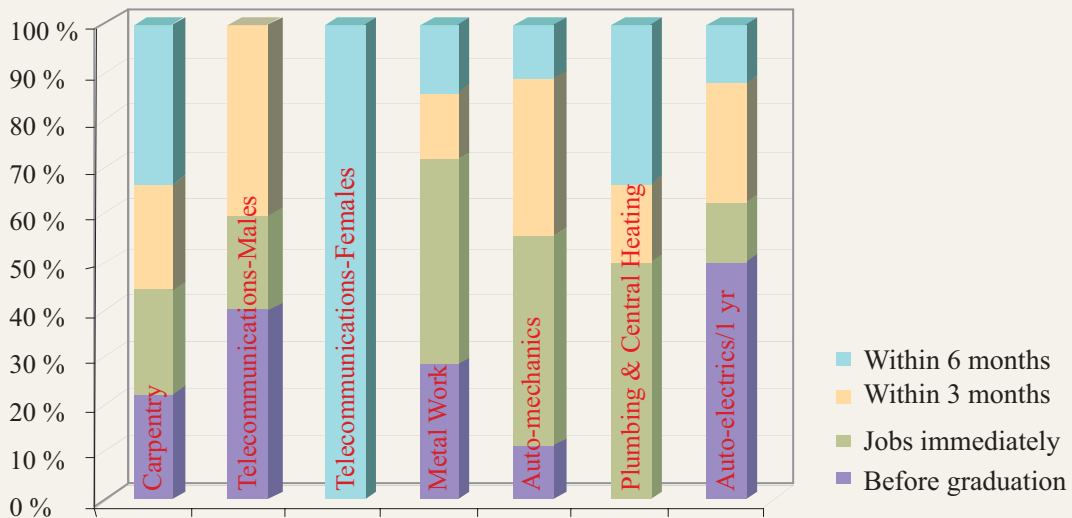
<sup>1</sup>One Year system accredited by Ministry of Labour to graduate semi-skilled workers, this year training is for 2 groups.

<sup>2</sup>Introduced this year 2005

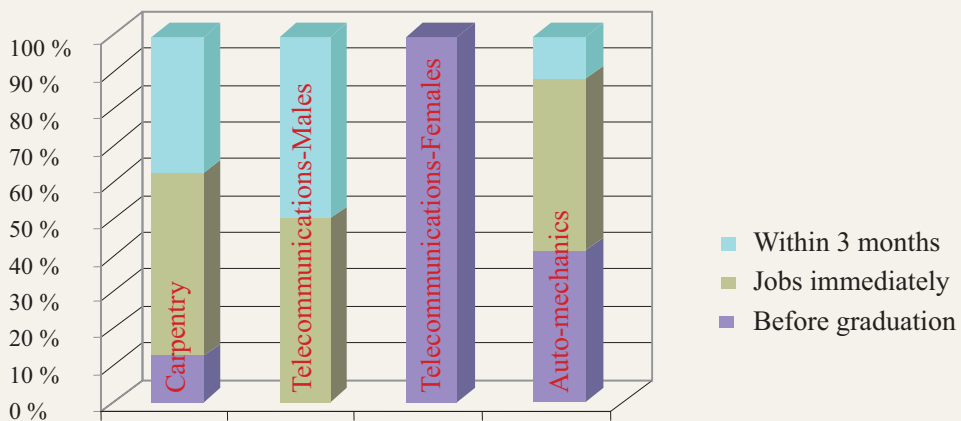
**Fig 1: LWF- VT graduates employability rates over years**



**Fig 2: LWF-VTC 05 Graduates Employment timing within graduation**



**Fig 3: LWF-VTCR 05 graduates Employment timing related to graduation**





# BRANCHES OF PEACE & PLENTY

Olive oil from the Mount of Olives supports the humanitarian efforts of the LWF

After planting, it takes a full four years before an olive tree will bear fruit. But after the initial harvest, these hardy trees can produce olives for centuries, each season's harvest sprouting out of the growth from the previous year. It seems fitting, then, that 800 olive trees cover the LWF property on the Mount of Olives, and that each year's harvest helps to support and sustain LWF services. From mid-October through the end of November, LWF staff and volunteers work to harvest the olives from all 800 trees and press the fruit into olive oil. The oil is used in the kitchen of the Augusta Victoria Hospital and is also bottled and sold to raise money for hospital programs.

The yearly olive harvest is a prime way to support the work of the Lutheran World Federation and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Tourists, pilgrims and students who are in Jerusalem during the harvest season are welcome to donate as little as half a day's work picking olives in the LWF grove.

Olive oil can be purchased by the bottle at the LWF campus, and in cases of ten or more bottles when shipped through the mail. For mail orders, there is a suggested donation of 20 USD per bottle, which includes a 5 USD shipping charge. Visitors to the campus can purchase bottles for 15 USD. The oil is stored in hand-blown bottles made from recycled glass by Palestinian artisans in Hebron. Each hand-crafted bottle contains ten to twelve ounces of oil. Olive oil from the Mount of Olives has proven to be a successful fundraiser at churches and community centers.

Other options include a donation of 200 USD, which pays for a gallon of olive oil for the AVH kitchen, or a donation of 1,000 USD for the planting of a new olive tree on the LWF grounds.



The process of picking and pressing olives is dependent on volunteers who donate their time during the seasonal olive harvest. Each fall, LWF staff and their families and friends pick olives, along with volunteers who live in or are visiting Jerusalem. It takes about six weeks to harvest the 800 trees on the LWF campus. The oil produced is used in the kitchen of the Augusta Victoria Hospital and also distributed to support the hospital's "Fund for the Poor."

All donations go toward AVH's Fund for the Poor, which helps to cover the hospital's operating costs and the fees of patients who are unable to pay.

To make a donation for a case of olive oil, a gallon of olive oil for the hospital, or the planting of an olive tree, or to make a general contribution to the LWF Jerusalem Program, please mail a check to:

Rev. Mark B. Brown  
The Lutheran World Federation  
P.O. Box 19178  
Jerusalem 91191  
Israel  
Please make checks out to  
**The Lutheran World Federation.**

Contact us at:

E-mail: [info@lwfjerusalem.org](mailto:info@lwfjerusalem.org)

Phone: +972.2.628.2289

Fax: +972.2.628.2628



Nabil Batarseh, Storekeeper for AVH supplies and LWF humanitarian supplies

Steve Bahbah, son of Michel Bahbah, the Director of Patient Services at AVH



Reverend Jack Eggleston, Assistant to the Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod





# RELATED AGENCIES AND MEMBER CHURCHES

Action by Churches Together (ACT)  
Australian Lutheran World Service  
Bread for the World, Germany  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief  
Church Development Service, Germany  
Church of Sweden  
DanChurchAid / Danida  
Diakonisches Werk, Germany (Stuttgart)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land  
Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V.(EED)  
FinnChurchAid  
German Development Cooperation (KFW)  
German National Committee of the LWF Hauptausschuss  
German Technical Cooperation (GTZ)  
Icelandic Church Aid  
Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Lutheran World Relief  
Norwegian Church Aid  
United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

For many of the LWF Jerusalem staff, July and August were months of intense preparation for the LWF Council meeting held in Jerusalem and Bethlehem from August 30 to September 6.

The gathering was hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land under the theme, "The Church: Called to a Ministry of Reconciliation." It was an excellent opportunity for representatives of LWF churches to be in the Holy Land and to learn firsthand about the programs and ministries of the LWF and ELCJHL. On Saturday, September 3, the Council gathered for a picnic on the LWF Mount of Olives campus.

The LWF Council reiterated its call for an end to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories and affirmed the implementation of the Roadmap for peace as crucial to establishing a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine, with a shared city of Jerusalem.



# DONORS AND SUPPORTERS 2005

## Donors to the Fund For The Poor

Ben Alofs  
Bruce Burnside  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief  
Christine & Christian Lewis  
Ellen Ramkissoon  
Ev. Stephanusgemeinde  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
First Lutheran Church  
Gail Marie Chupick  
Genvieve Odegard  
Hazel R. Peterson  
Helen Reed  
Janet W. Course  
Janice M. Hayden  
Jennifer D. Sheetz  
Kathlene E. Schoening  
Laurel D. Doermann  
Lemon Grove-Lutheran Church Women  
Dr. and Mrs. Mark E. Kozminsky  
R.D. Mac Donald  
Ralph Strand  
Ruth Hansen  
Saint John's Rebecca Circle

Saint Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Saint Thomas Lutheran Church  
Stiftelsen Bentanien Bergen  
Women of ELCA First Lutheran Church

## Others

Anglican Board of Mission, Australia  
Ann E. Hafften  
DanChurchAid  
Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Technische  
Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)  
Doha/Qatar  
E. Griffiths  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
Irma Jordan  
Jeanne O. Lippert  
Methodist Relief and Development Fund  
Norwegian ChurchAid-MFA  
Saint Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Stephen and Darah Brisson  
Stiftung Diakonie Werk Kropp & G. Jackisch  
Dr. Sveinn Hanksson  
Dr. Tawfiq Nasser

Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, AVH CEO, briefed numerous visitors in 2005 regarding the LWF health services in the Jerusalem area.





# FINANCIAL DATA

## Income Received Through Geneva

Anglican Board of Mission, Australia	3,896
Bread for the World	80,000
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	58,939
Church of Sweden	503,772
DanChurchAid / Danida	222,324
Diakonisches Werk, Germany (Stuttgart)	78,370
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	389,001
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada	8,639
Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V.(EED)	122,085
GNC-HA Deutscher Hauptausschuss	111,268
Lutheran World Relief	112,762
Methodist Relief and Development Fund	2,716
Norwegian Church Aid	115,247
Norwegian Church Aid-MFA	156,593
Stiftung Diakonie Werk Kropp & G. Jackisch	27,865

## Revenue and Expenses

	2005	2004	2003
<b>Revenues</b>			
Vocational Training Program	778,097	874,705	1,014,123
Scholarship Program	40,337	28,641	24,627
Augusta Victoria Hospital (Operations)	6,472,780	6,333,601	6,513,912
Village Health Clinics	194,586	211,490	222,432
Emergency through ACT	411,431	356,239	626,781
<b>Expenses</b>			
Vocational Training Program	906,796	771,933	988,196
Scholarship Program	25,881	24,092	24,173
Augusta Victoria Hospital	7,342,873	6,410,130	6,560,796
Village Health Clinics	175,371	200,124	183,449
Emergency through ACT	479,890	318,015	652,600

# THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Department for World Service  
Jerusalem Program Senior Staff

## I. LWF CENTRAL OFFICE

Rev. Mark Brown	Regional Representative
Alex Kuttab	Chief Finance Officer
Atif Khatib Al-Rimawi	Human Resources Officer

## II. AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL (AVH) AND VILLAGE HEALTH CLINICS (VHCs)

Tawfiq Nasser, Ph.D.	Chief Executive Officer
Bassem Sweiss, M.D.	Acting Chief of Clinical Services
Alex Kuttab	Director of Finance
William Hadweh	Director of Nursing
Michel Bahbah	Director of Patient Services
Atif Khatib Al-Rimawi	Director of Human Resources
Muhammad Khweis	Director of Support Services

## III. VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER – BEIT HANINA (VTC)

Francis Gharfeh	Director/Principal
Peter Jahshan	Workshop Coordinator
Saliba Bannoura	Department Head - Carpentry
Jirius Bannoura	Department Head - Auto Mechanics
Gabi Kamel	Department Head - Metalwork & Aluminum
Izzat Hamdan	Department Head - Plumbing & Heating
Ayman Nasser	Department Head - Boarding
Hashem Shouli	Department Head – Electronics & Telecommunication

## IV. VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER – RAMALLAH (VTCR)

Randa Hilal	VTCR Director and Vocational Training Consultant
Yousef Shalian	VTCR Coordinator
Thaer Shqair	Vocational Training Quality Controller (Head Of Theory)

## V. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Suad Freij	Supervisor
------------	------------

# DONORS

## Olive Oil and Olive Trees\*

Antoni Banchs  
Antonios Kireopoulos  
Antti Pentikainen  
Arne Jor  
Aurora M. Ordonia  
Barbara Belding  
Barbara Rossing / LSTC Group  
Barbara Wetsig  
Barry and Debbie Huber  
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Calvary Lutheran Church  
Canadian Lutheran World Relief  
Carolyne M. Schneider  
Charlie Turner  
Charlotte D. Gillmore-Williams  
Chicago Lights  
Cholpon Rosengren  
Christa Rademacher  
Christiana Kircher  
Chuck Lutz Group  
Cornelia Coenen-Marx  
Craig Kippels  
Cynthia Kopperstad  
Dale R. Liesch  
David Ballantyne  
David Nelson  
Debbie Blane  
Delia Banchs  
Dimidet  
Donald Neraas  
Dun James  
Earl and Christine Mummert  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Fallegard  
Folk Art Mavens  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Gretchen Winkler  
Group Travel Directors  
Halron Pederson  
Heidi Nau  
Hisham Jabi  
J. Lowell Knauff  
James and Susan Hooker  
Jan Auman  
Jan Teichuem  
Janice M. Hayden  
Jen Butte - Dahl  
Jennifer D. Sheetz  
Johannes Raustol  
John and Lynda Thomas\*

Julie Norman  
Julie Rowe  
Kerstin Larsen  
Klaus Nielsen  
Lois G. Capps  
LTSP Student Body  
Lucile Kirkegaard  
Lutheran Church of Christ  
Lutheran Ministry in Fenway  
Marc Hequet  
Margaret E. Howland  
Margaret Stusius  
Mark and Susanne Brown\*  
Martha L. McCracken  
Marty Zimmann  
Mathias Schlund  
Mia Celcilie Hallesby  
Norman Cotton  
Norwegian Church Aid Group  
Olivier Dinichert  
Pastor Jana  
Paul R. Gilbertson  
Phyllis A. Rohland  
Richard Hegal  
Robert Brandstetier  
Robert D. Hostetter  
Robert D. Walters  
Robert Lynam  
Roger Mork  
Rosalind Vonau  
Ruth Hansen  
Said Ailabouni  
Saint John Lutheran Church  
Saint Paul Lutheran Church  
Sani Meo  
Souad Freij  
Southeast Michigan Synod group, ELCA  
Sri Mayasandra  
Stephen and Darah Brisson  
Stiftelsen Bentanien Bergen  
Susanne Stumpe  
Sveinn Hanksson  
Sylvia Campbell\*  
Tim and Glenda Christenson  
Tim Robertson  
Tom Witt  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Vallimar Jansen  
Wolfram Buchholz  
World Vision



## Mission

The Lutheran World Federation's Department for World Service Jerusalem Program continues to protect and preserve the Mount of Olives property

**while securing the resources necessary to:**

- 1) provide humanitarian services and protect the human and religious rights of the Palestinian people;
- 2) strengthen the presence and witness of the Christian communities in the Holy Land;
- 3) promote understanding, peace, and reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis and among Jews, Christians, and Muslims;
- 4) strengthen the ecumenical and international presence in the Holy Land; and
- 5) reduce the LWF deficit related to the AVH and secure the long-term financial viability of the LWF Mount of Olives projects.

## Cover captions



A mother sits with her daughter who has come to Augusta Victoria Hospital for kidney dialysis. The two came to the hospital on the AVH bus, which helps patients navigate through checkpoints and the Separation Wall in order to reach the hospital for necessary procedures like kidney dialysis or cancer therapy.



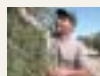
The bell tower on the Augusta Victoria campus is an easily recognized landmark along the skyline of the Mount of Olives.



An AVH nurse gives dancing lessons to a young patient in the dialysis room. The kidney dialysis unit at Augusta Victoria Hospital is often filled with children who provide a lively atmosphere despite their physically draining treatments.



A kindergartener in Tulkarm refugee camp shares an apple with her new teddy bear. The Lutheran World Federation donated a bear for each of the children at the kindergarten, a crowded school with almost no toys.



Reaching into the upper branches, Khaled Nasrallah, a member of the LWF staff, takes part in the yearly olive harvest.

## Back Cover Captions



A new playground installed near the hospital is always busy with children from the hospital or community who enjoy a new place to play. Students at the Vocational Training Center helped in designing and building the playground.



Girls at the Vocational Training Center in Ramallah make repairs on a switchboard as part of their training in the telecommunications program.



The Lutheran World Federation campus is home to numerous varieties of flowers and trees indigenous to the region.

## LWF Jerusalem 2005 Annual Report

Editor: **Rev. Mark Brown**

Associate Editor: **Margit Christenson**

Text: **Rev. Mark Brown, Margit Christenson,  
Francis Gharfeh, Randa Hilal, Dr. Tawfiq Nasser**

Photography: **LWF staff photos; Karin Brown; Rev. Mark Brown;  
Margit Christenson; Leif Gustavsson, Church of Sweden**

Printing and Design: **Turbo Design**

# THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION DEPARTMENT FOR WORLD SERVICE JERUSALEM

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF now has 140 member churches in 78 countries all over the world and represents more than 66 million Christians.

The Lutheran World Federation's Department for World Service operates in 37 countries around the world, offering relief and development to people and populations living in poverty.

The LWF is a founding member of Action by Churches Together (ACT).

**The Lutheran World Federation**

**P.O. Box 19178**

**Jerusalem 91191 Israel**

**Phone: +972.2.628.2289**

**Email: [info@lwfjerusalem.org](mailto:info@lwfjerusalem.org)**

**Website: [www.lwfjerusalem.org](http://www.lwfjerusalem.org)**

