

الإتحاد اللوٲري، العالمى القءس

The Lutheran World Federation

Department for World Service



Annual Report 2006
Jerusalem

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Uphold the Rights of the Poor and Oppressed

The Lutheran World Federation's Department for World Service Jerusalem Program provides humanitarian services and works to protect the human and religious rights of the Palestinian people; strengthen the presence of the Christian communities in the Holy Land; promote understanding and peace between Palestinians and Israelis and among Jews, Christians, and Muslims; and strengthen the ecumenical and international presence in the Holy Land.

Photo by C. Granberg



Foreword

At the close of 2006, we took a big breath, gave thanks, and gladly moved on, hopeful that 2007 would be better. The Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem reported that 683 people were killed in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2006: 660 Palestinians (including 141 minors) and 23 Israelis (including 1 minor). Sadly, these numbers only hint at the overall deterioration of the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories this past year. In addition, poverty rose sharply and, according to a United Nations draft report, nearly half of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza are “food insecure” or in danger of becoming so.

There was optimism at the beginning of the year as Palestinians prepared to go to the polls. The election of the Hamas government, however, led to the freezing of foreign funding to the Palestinian Authority (PA), a political move that jeopardized the humanitarian work of many governmental and non-governmental institutions, including Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH). By February, AVH was no longer receiving payments from the PA for the patients that the PA was referring to AVH. Much of 2006 was spent scrambling to secure emergency funding to cover the drop in payments to AVH and to ensure that there would be no interruption in the treatment of patients who depend on AVH. Through ACT International, an appeal for emergency funding for the period from April through September was sent out to partners.

The generous response by numerous churches, agencies, individuals and governments was crucial for AVH and we offer our heartfelt thanks to them. Their assistance and partnership helped to guarantee that those most vulnerable in the society – children needing kidney dialysis, cancer patients needing to continue their treatment protocols, children needing head and neck surgery, and others with medical conditions that could only be treated at AVH – would not suffer because of a drop in services provided by AVH. The AVH leadership and staff – despite the hardships due to the Separation Wall, late salary payments, shortages of supplies, and other obstacles – managed to sustain and even increase the services of AVH during this difficult period! Many thanks to you!

Much like the effort to stabilize AVH in a time of economic upheaval, the physical structure of the hospital also needed stabilizing after a 2004 earthquake left cracks in the thick walls of the building. Earthquake reinforcement work and cosmetic repairs were completed at the hospital’s northern and eastern sections in June 2006. The techniques we used to reinforce the hospital make it possible in the future to enlarge the existing Cancer Care Center without endangering the existing building and with minimal structural changes, thereby reducing the overall cost of expansion. We extend our appreciation to the EKD, the Church of Sweden, and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their financial support in preserving and protecting the historic Augusta Victoria facility.



Friendships form between the patients and staff in the pediatric kidney dialysis unit, where children come three times a week for treatment. West Bank children with kidney failure have only one place to receive treatment, and that is Augusta Victoria. A series of bus routes connecting patients to the hospital has become essential in the past years as movement is further restricted for Palestinians. Creative solutions such as these have kept AVH operating in a region rocked by conflict. Photo by K. Brown

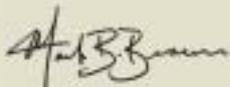
The LWF and the State of Israel held important negotiations in 2006 in an effort to resolve the tax issue that has been a concern of the LWF for the past several years. The LWF was granted a tax exemption in 1966 by Jordan and in 1967 by Israel because of the humanitarian services offered by the LWF. The Israeli Tax Department sought to end this exemption in the late 1990s. Hopefully in 2007 a negotiated solution will be reached allowing the LWF to continue to operate Augusta Victoria Hospital and provide other humanitarian services.

2007 will offer numerous occasions that will prompt us to reflect on the history of this land and our collective responsibility in building a brighter, more peaceful future. 2007 marks forty years since the June 1967 war and the beginning of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and other territories. It will be sixty years since the June 1947 formation of the Lutheran World Federation in Lund, Sweden, and 58 years since the beginning of the LWF's work in Jerusalem. 2007 is also the hundredth anniversary of the laying of the corner stone of Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives. I hope you will think of the Jerusalem Program often in 2007 and pray for the 250 teachers, trainers, guards, nurses, cleaners, doctors, therapists, maintenance workers, secretaries, gardeners, managers, accountants, technicians, drivers, surgeons, clerks, pharmacists, and cooks who form the LWF team serving refugees and others in need throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Palestinian women have played a great role in the history of the LWF Jerusalem program, as well as the region. In this year's report, we have highlighted a few of the women who are adding to the accomplishments and the history of the LWF. Whether they are leaders of LWF projects -- setting standards for healthcare and education -- or graduates of technical training courses -- setting an example for younger girls by entering a workplace typically dominated by men -- the LWF would like to say thank you to the women who have contributed and continue to contribute to the success of the LWF Jerusalem program.

Over half of the population in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is under the age of eighteen. The photos of the LWF vocational training students and young patients at AVH on the front and back covers of this report are reminders of this fact and a sign of the LWF's ongoing commitment to them. On behalf of the staff of the LWF Jerusalem program, I would like to express our gratitude to all who helped us maintain this commitment in 2006.

Rev. Mark B. Brown



Regional Representative



During break, students at the Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina relax and converse before returning to the workshop or classroom. For nearly sixty years, the LWF has been offering technical training to Palestinian youth, teaching practical skills that can be put to use in the community and lead to employment. The addition of apprentice training in the VT program two years ago has put the LWF VT centers on the cutting edge of technical training in the Palestinian Territories. Photo by K. Brown



PRIORITIZING HEALTHCARE

LWF Health Programs Emphasize Patients' Rights to Access

Despite the uncertain financial situation facing Augusta Victoria Hospital in 2006 due to the political situation, the hospital continued to care for a population of refugees and patients referred from various sources. AVH registered close to fifty percent of its inpatient admissions from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the rest from the Palestinian Ministry of Health and other insurers.

The most active departments and services were the specialty services with 16,176 fields of treatment for 943 outpatient admissions in the radiation oncology unit; 8,777 in the outpatient dialysis unit; 1607 outpatient admissions for chemotherapy; and 2,349 outpatient admissions in the endoscopy unit. In addition, there were 17,592 inpatient hospital days and 10,201 outpatient clinic visits.

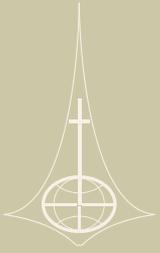
The hospital's main departments are: the Cancer Care Center; the Pediatric Department; the Kidney Dialysis Unit; the Ear, Nose, and Throat Department; the Surgical Department; the Medical Department; the Endoscopy Unit; and the Diabetes Project.

The hospital's busing program transported an average of 110 patients and staff every day from areas in the south and north of the West Bank to and from AVH. Patients who were referred to AVH came from the usual UNRWA and PA primary care systems, as well as the LWF Village Health Clinics.

The LWF Village Health Program ceased operation in the town of Abud and expanded to another clinic, located in the village of Turmus'ayya, between Ramallah and Nablus. There, a new model of a community urgent care center is being tested in cooperation with the Turmus'ayya village council. The village clinics continued to focus on maternal and child health and saw an average of 1,000 patients per month.

Patients visit in the waiting room of the LWF community urgent care center in Turmus'ayya, a village north of Ramallah. The center is a new addition to the LWF health program, a model for community urgent care that is being done in partnership with the Turmus'ayya village council. Photo by C. Granberg





STRENGTH THROUGH COOPERATION

AVH Leads a Coordinated Response in Times of Crisis

In 1995, Palestinian residents of Jerusalem, while not considered Israeli citizens, were suddenly offered insurance under the Israeli health system. The effect of the measure was to direct the large majority of Palestinian Jerusalemite patients to Israeli hospitals. Around the same time, the Israeli authorities began controlling Palestinians' access into Jerusalem and many West Bank patients could no longer easily reach healthcare facilities. These Israeli measures had a dramatic negative effect on the viability of the six hospitals in East Jerusalem and prompted an unhealthy competition for patients between them. This led to price wars and the threat of lower medical standards.

In 1997, a meeting was held with the directors of the East Jerusalem hospitals to discuss how to coordinate their work in the face of such political and financial challenges. The idea of the East Jerusalem Hospital Forum emerged from this meeting. The forum worked to create unique departments in each of the hospitals that would not duplicate or compete with the work of the other hospitals in East Jerusalem. In 2003, the European Union began funding what became known as the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network.

In 2006, the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network elected Dr. Tawfiq Nasser, CEO of Augusta Victoria Hospital, as Network president, a position that leads the coordination of the six hospitals. This happened at the time of foreign aid restrictions to the Palestinian Authority (PA) following the election of the Hamas government. Aid restrictions hit hard in the healthcare



On a tour of AVH LWF Regional Representative Rev. Mark Brown (left) and Augusta Victoria Hospital CEO Dr. Tawfiq Nasser (right) accompany EU Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero-Waldner. Ferrero-Waldner pledged EU support for AVH and the other hospitals in the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network. Photo by K. Brown

sector due to the fact that many health services were paid for through an insurance and referral system that was nearly bankrupt. The East Jerusalem Hospitals Network (EJHN) began a united advocacy effort to find other sources for reimbursement.

The effort was led by Augusta Victoria Hospital and focused on bringing attention to the fact that patient health and life-saving services were at stake. The EJHN reached out to the very same institutions that had called for the boycott of the PA, namely large donor agencies, such as the World Bank, the E.U., and the U.S. government, as well as other agencies that were unable to maneuver due to their governments' positions on aid restrictions to the Palestinian Authority.

ACT International was the first to respond to the appeals of AVH, issuing an appeal that quickly received donations to fill the funding gap. Following ACT's response, AVH continued the LWF advocacy efforts to challenge the practice of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) of not funding institutions in East Jerusalem. The result was that USAID began working with the East Jerusalem Hospital Network. AVH was the first to receive dialysis supplies from USAID through Care International. This was quickly followed by similar donations of supplies, equipment, and spare parts to other hospitals in East Jerusalem.

The European Union, which had already made a decision to fund some humanitarian services in the West Bank such as education and health, also made note of the plight of East Jerusalem Hospitals and decided to include them in their aid package for the West Bank.

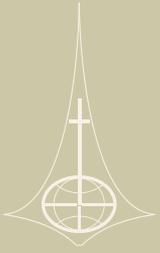
Due to the establishment of the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network, conceived nearly ten years earlier, AVH and the other members of the EJHN were able to quickly mobilize in the face of a sudden crisis. AVH led the cooperative effort to stabilize the hospitals and protect the rights of the patients.



Surgeons, nurses, and radiation doctors make initial incisions for surgery. AVH surgical services include general and specialty surgeries with a training program in ear, nose and throat surgery and general surgery. The cooperation between the six hospitals of the East Jerusalem Hospitals Network ensures that hospitals do not have to engage in budget-depleting price wars in order to attract patients. Each hospital offers a realm of service, which complements that of the other hospitals, resulting in a higher level of care and specialization. Photo by K. Brown



In the kidney dialysis unit, an AVH nurse inserts a line for a pediatric patient. In its role as the coordinator of the East Jerusalem Hospital Network, AVH led an advocacy campaign to find funds for hospitals' salaries and supplies, at the same time highlighting success stories of the East Jerusalem hospitals. AVH took a firm stand against the practice of using patients as a means to a political end and argued that regardless of foreign political decisions, the protection of the civilian population had to be a first priority. Photo by K. Brown



WOMAN'S WORLD

LWF Health Management is Marked by Women in Leadership Roles

Throughout the rural areas of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, women can be seen picking olives in the harvest season, sowing the land with seeds in the planting season, and collecting wood for the fire in the dry season, working the land alongside men. In more urbanized areas, we find women working in clinics and universities, joining demonstrations, and holding positions in major political parties and institutions. Besides their traditional role in the home, Palestinian women have made significant contributions in the professional realm and in the struggle for Palestinian independence. Yet there are still many challenges facing women throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territories, particularly in regard to limited career and education opportunities.

LWF health programs encourage women to pursue their careers. Since the early 1990s, women have made up at least fifty percent of the administrative directors at Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH). Currently, AVH employs more than 50 professional women in both technical and administrative fields. These women assume leadership roles on clinical issues, financial issues, and administrative affairs.

Kholoud Al-Ashhab is the head of Pharmaceutical Services, a position that reports directly to the AVH Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Al-Ashhab finished her studies in pharmaceutical medicine in the University of Jordan and worked at Al-Ahli Hospital in Hebron and Al-Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem, the largest hospital serving Palestinians in East Jerusalem. She took leave from her career to provide care for her family and returned after that period to AVH to work as the Chief of Pharmaceutical Services. Al-Ashhab works in this department determining therapeutic regimens and protocols for dispensing medications, particularly for the Cancer Care Center where heavy medications such as chemotherapy are used. Al-Ashhab has a large responsibility, preserving the quality of treatment for patients while adhering to the hospital's reduced budget in times of financial strain.

Siham Awwad is a deputy director of all the West Bank village health and outreach centers of the Lutheran World Federation. Siham trained as a nurse at AVH and worked for a time as the Deputy Director of Nursing before leaving to get a Master's Degree in Community Health from Al Quds University. She worked at Dahran Hospital in Saudi Arabia, Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem, Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem and at the Bethlehem Arab Society as an Assistant Matron before she returned to AVH. Siham now reports directly to the AVH CEO on all matters relating to the village health program and outreach centers and dedicates herself to working with the community to determine which health services are needed in each of the areas LWF serves.

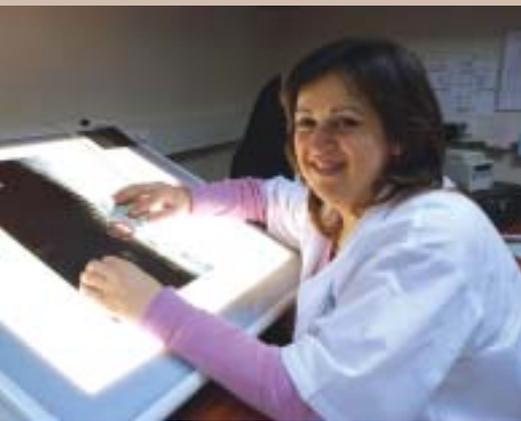
Amineh Khatib Hamad, a medical physicist in the Cancer Care Center, obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering with Medical Electronics from the University of Kent in London. She worked in the Royal London Hospital before returning to Jerusalem where she worked as a biomedical engineer at Ramco Medical Ltd. Co. and at Al-Makassed and Red Crescent Hospitals. Hamad was the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship, which led her to move to the United States where she received a Master's Degree in Radiological



Kholoud Al-Ashhab



Siham Awwad



Amineh Khatib Hamad



Dr. Suha Hasan



Amira Juha
Photos by K. Brown

Sciences and Medical Physics from the University of Oklahoma. She is the first Palestinian woman to obtain this particular specialty. Joining the AVH team three years into the cancer program, Hamad was responsible for monitoring the construction of the center, acquiring the necessary technology, and the implementation, testing, and certification of the Cancer Care Center as a whole. She is a main consultant on issues of bio-technology throughout the hospital departments.

Dr. Suha Hasan is a lead physician in the village health program. A graduate of Al-Quds University Medical School, she has worked in nearly all of the village clinic centers run by the LWF. Hasan trained in maternal and child health and has developed skills that include antenatal and postnatal care. She is involved with several projects with the hospital, primarily the implementation of standardized protocol for receiving pregnant women and working with their needs all the way through childbirth. She will also be involved in an AVH diabetes center program entitled "Gestational Diabetes." Hasan will be the main liaison between various NGOs, governmental clinics, and UNRWA, all of which are working on the issue of gestational diabetes mellitus.

Amira Juha is the Chief Accountant at AVH and came to the hospital after completing her studies at Bethlehem University in accounting. She was the student of the Lutheran World Federation/Augusta Victoria Hospital Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and she came to the hospital on his recommendation based on her notable scholastic achievement. Juha worked in the hospital for one year before studying for her Master's Degree in accounting at James Madison University in Virginia through the U.S.-based Presidential Scholarship. Since returning to AVH, she has played a major role as a member of the management information systems' committee, implementing a fully integrated system between clinical and financial activities. Juha's skills extend into financial analysis, and she advises the CFO and the CEO on issues related to cost-containment and efficiency in financial performance.



INTEGRATION STRATEGY

LWF Health Programs Connect to Make Healthcare More Efficient

Given the complex political situation in the Holy Land, institutions find they need innovative solutions in order to respond effectively. Augusta Victoria Hospital, the LWF Village Health Clinics, and the busing program which brings patients and staff through the checkpoints each day, all face multiple strategic issues relating to the natural complexity of the healthcare industry, to the oppressive political realities or to the status of Jerusalem. LWF healthcare programs have turned toward an integrated model that can connect the programs and deal with strategic issues in an efficient way.

The Cancer Care Services at AVH illustrate the relationships between the programs. When AVH implemented its cancer program, it started with a primary community care program that addresses the issues of cancer screening, cancer education, and the promotion of health behaviors that reduce cancer risk. The village health clinics were and are the natural locations to disperse this care and information. When a patient is diagnosed with cancer, he or she is referred to AVH, where specialized treatment is available. This relationship between the hospital and the smaller clinics shows the holistic medical care LWF health programs strive toward.

The Lutheran World Federation health services present an affordable and sustainable continuum of care, rather than merely offering treatment at one end or the other of the healthcare spectrum. This model is not only efficient, but responds also to the restrictions in movement imposed on the Palestinian patients.



A game of Chutes and Ladders helps pass the time while Hiba is at the pediatric kidney dialysis unit. Hiba comes to AVH for dialysis two to three times a week via the hospital's busing program. The integrated model that LWF health programs are shifting towards helps keep track of the services Hiba uses and streamlines her access to healthcare. Photo by C. Granberg

Village Health Clinics

The Village Health Clinics are developing more and more into an outreach network. The five centers operated by the LWF are placed throughout the West Bank, some in small villages with impoverished populations, some in larger, more well-to-do areas, and one in a city center. Each of these clinics has evolved individually, depending on the geographical and socio-economic environment. For example, clinics in two of the poorer villages complement the public health services offered by the local clinic staff, lowering medical costs in an area where patients have difficulty paying their fees.

The Village Health program expanded to the village of Turmus'ayya located between Ramallah and Nablus. The LWF clinic there works in partnership with the municipality, which granted the LWF use of a former hospital. AVH began a community urgent care center out of the clinic. This center is a unique model, different than the three other LWF clinics located in Beit Liqya, Kharbatha, and Shuqba, in that it has a heavy focus on both community care and urgent care. Turmus'ayya is one of the more well-to-do villages due to its connections to the Palestinian diaspora, but the LWF clinic there serves twelve impoverished villages in the surrounding area.

The Urban Outreach Center is a venture that has been beneficial to the hospital, which needed to augment its referral base. Refugees who cannot access Jerusalem go to the center in Ramallah to see AVH specialists and consultants. The center helps arrange for the patients' permits for transit to Jerusalem and AVH. The Urban Outreach Center has proven to be an excellent source of referrals. AVH's prior dependence on referrals from UNWRA and the PA proved damaging to the hospital in 2006 when funding to the PA was frozen. AVH has used creative solutions to achieve a financial stability that will ensure continued healthcare for its patients.



Patients at village health clinics, like this woman at the community urgent care center in Turmus'ayya, are referred to AVH should they require specialized care. AVH is in the process of developing an information technology system accessible through the internet, one that will track the services each patient utilizes within the integrated healthcare system. On one system, LWF staff will be able to find information on a patient, including clinics visited and travel restrictions. Photo by K. Brown



Education and prevention are as much a part of AVH's integrated healthcare plan as medications and treatments. Here, a group of schoolgirls attends a nutrition talk at AVH, learning about healthy eating habits through skits and role-playing. Photo by K. Brown

The Lutheran World Federation

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. Rainward Bastian German Institute for Medical Mission

Ms. Leni Bjorklund* Church of Sweden

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

Mr. Robert Granke* Executive Director, Canadian Lutheran World Relief

Rev. Eberhard Hitzler (Ex-officio)** Director, LWF Department for World Service

Dr. Ragnhild Hvidt*** Physician/ DanChurchAid

Rev. Aage Muller-Nilssen Kirkens Bymisjon / Church of Norway

Dr. Eberhard von Perfall Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Stiftung

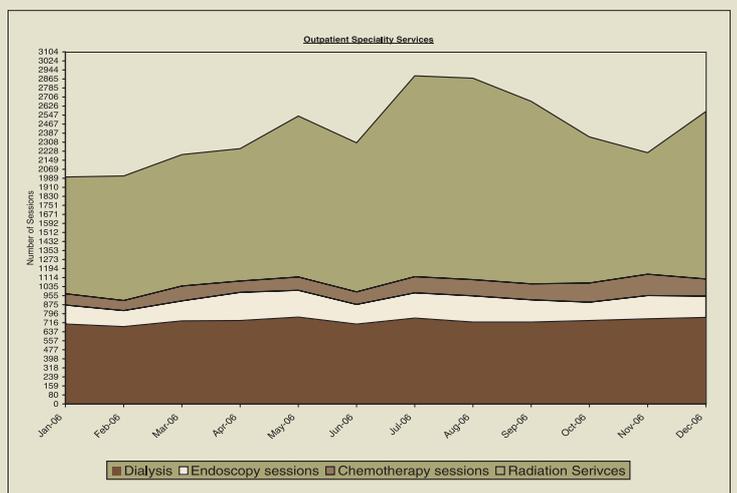
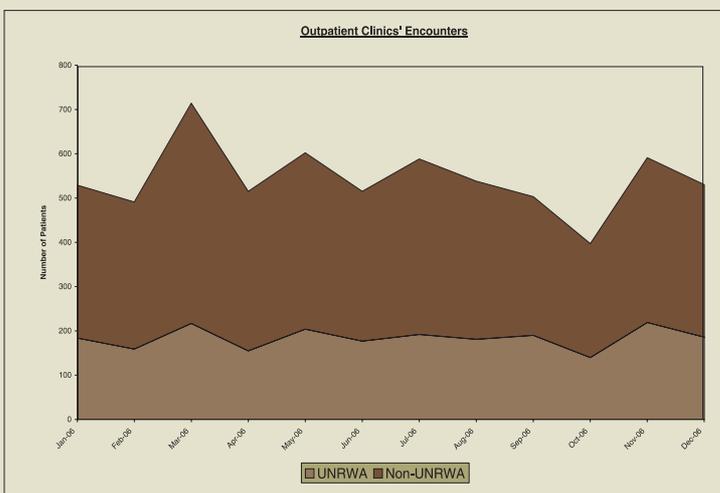
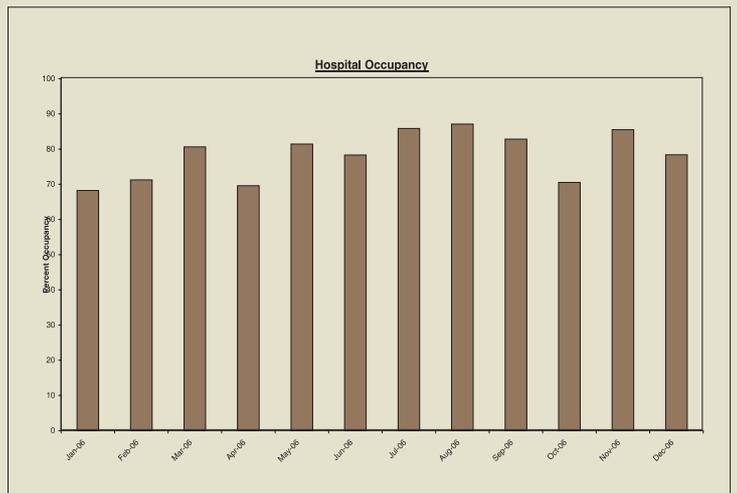
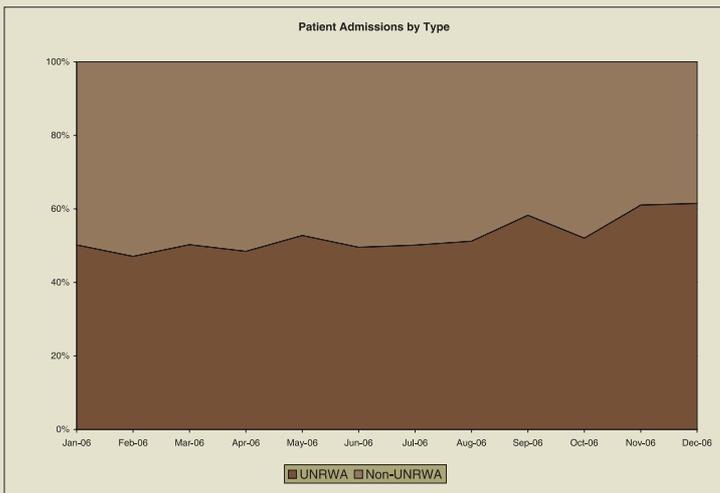
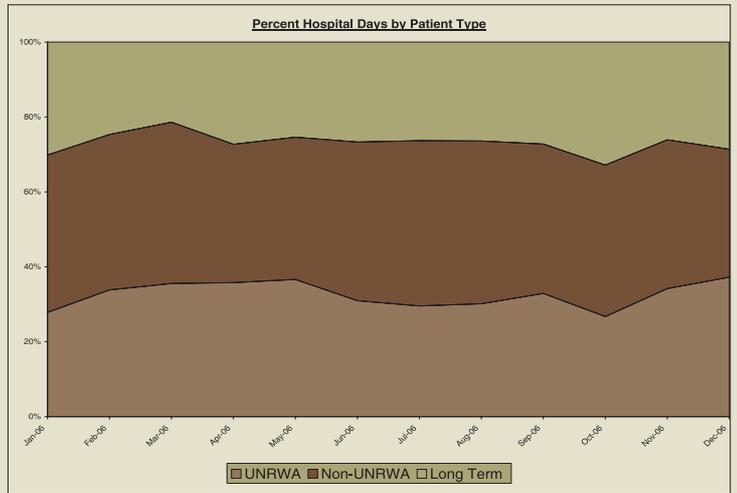
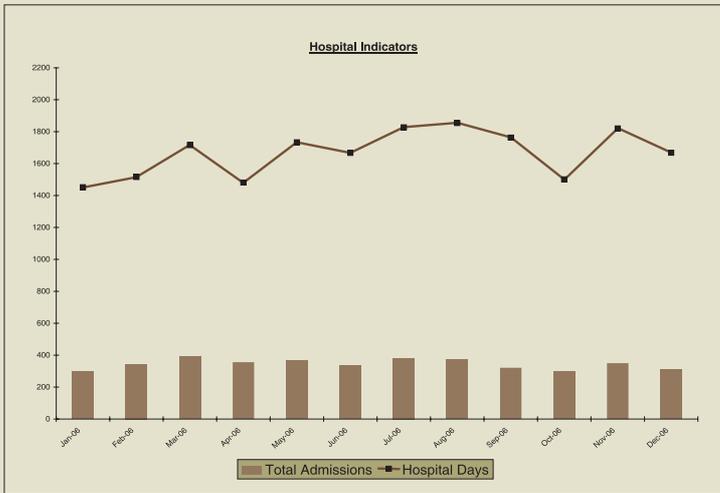
Propst Uwe Gräbe** Kaiserin Augusta Victoria Stiftung

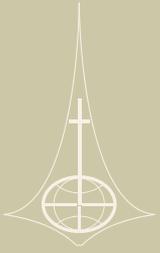
* Joined the AVH Board in December 2006. Ms. Bjorklund replaced Bishop Anders Wejryd. Canada is newly represented on the AVH Board by Mr. Granke.

** Joined the AVH Board in July 2006.

*** Completed Service on AVH Board in April 2006. Replacement from Denmark is pending.

Augusta Victoria Hospital Statistics, 2006





EARTH, WIND, AND FIRE

LWF Faces the Elements to Preserve the Mount of Olives Property

It's not just the local political climate that is tumultuous. Earthquakes shaking buildings, basements flooding in winter windstorms, and summer wildfires burning across hillsides are a few of the issues the LWF deals with in following its mission to protect and preserve the Mount of Olives campus.

Vital earthquake repairs were completed in June 2006, mending cracks in the north wall of Augusta Victoria Hospital and creating a foundation nine meters deep. The damage to the hospital was the result of an earthquake in 2004. By repairing the cracks and reinforcing the hospital's foundation with a belt of concrete, the northern face was strengthened and showed no damage after earthquake tremors during the summer and fall.

Maintenance projects on the property in 2006 included the upgrading and repair of sections of boundary walls and fences around the campus, installation of more security lighting, repair of the hospital roof, and improvement of internal roads on the campus. Work began on the refurbishment of the AVH pediatric ward and on renovations for a new a psycho-social unit.

LWF also worked on preserving the beauty of the grounds on the Mount of Olives. For decades, the LWF property on the Mount of Olives has been the site of Easter sunrise services for congregations in Jerusalem. Early Easter morning, members of English-, German-, and Danish-speaking congregations start arriving in the dark of the night and settle into lawn chairs or lean against pine trees at various locations on the eastern side of the property, preparing for worship before the sun rises over the Jordan Valley. This year, the English language congregation was surprised to find a new amphitheater, completed just days earlier, in the spot where its Easter sunrise service is held. The amphitheater offers two tiers of rock seats for the congregation to sit on and two large stones for the altar. The amphitheater has become a popular spot for hospital staff, patients, visiting family members, and tourists to eat lunch, chat or take in the view.



Members of the construction team pour cement into a reinforced trench along the northeast side of the hospital. The earthquake repairs have strengthened the infrastructure of the AVH building's northern face, making the hospital better prepared for large earthquakes in the future. Photo by S. Qreitem



On a foggy April morning, the architecture assistant oversees his team as they heighten and reinforce the campus' eastern boundary wall. Other minor fence repairs were completed on the campus, including damage from a car which crashed into the fence that runs along the road bisecting the campus. Photo by S. Qreitem



On the first day of construction, large rocks from the LWF campus were arranged in two semi-circles facing the Jordan Valley. The largest rock, one nearly two meters long, was used as the altar at the new amphitheater. Photo by M. Christenson

MOUNT OF OLIVES HOUSING PROJECT

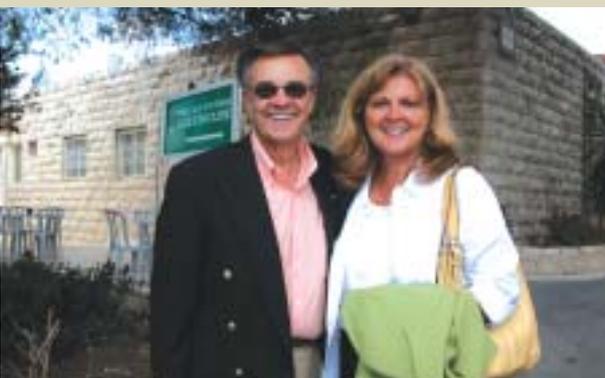
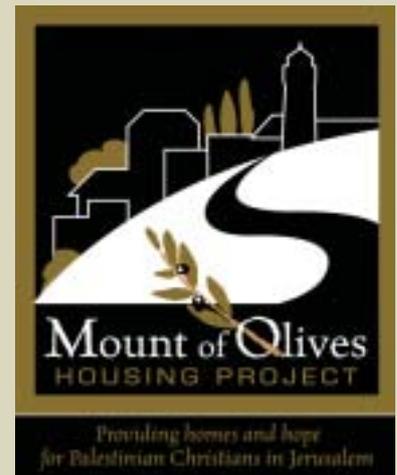
The Palestinian Christian presence in Jerusalem has been dwindling over the years. Leaders such as ELCJHL Bishop Munib Younan have identified the lack of affordable housing as one of the main causes of the Christian exodus from the city.

In 2006, LWF staff began the lengthy process of seeking approval for the master site plan for the LWF Mount of Olives property and applying for licenses for construction. Over the summer, the Israeli Antiquities Department surveyed the housing project site and did minor excavations to make certain that no historical sites would be compromised in the digging.

As international support for the project grows, the LWF, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the Kaiserin Auguste Victoria Foundation are pushing ahead, hoping to begin construction in 2008.

For more information about the Mount of Olives Housing Project, visit www.LWFJerusalem.org and click on the link for "Housing Project". You can also contact the LWF at info@LWFJerusalem.org or +972.2.628.2289, or you can write to:

Rev. Mark B. Brown
The Lutheran World Federation
P.O. Box 19178
Jerusalem 91191



Jim and Susan Hooker, of Hilton Head, South Carolina, are leading a fundraising campaign in the United States, educating congregations and community groups about the plight of Palestinian Christians and the need for affordable housing. Efforts are also underway in many other countries, including Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Germany, to generate support for the project. Photo by M. Brown



WALLED IN

Restrictions on Movement Affect Palestinians as Well as LWF Projects

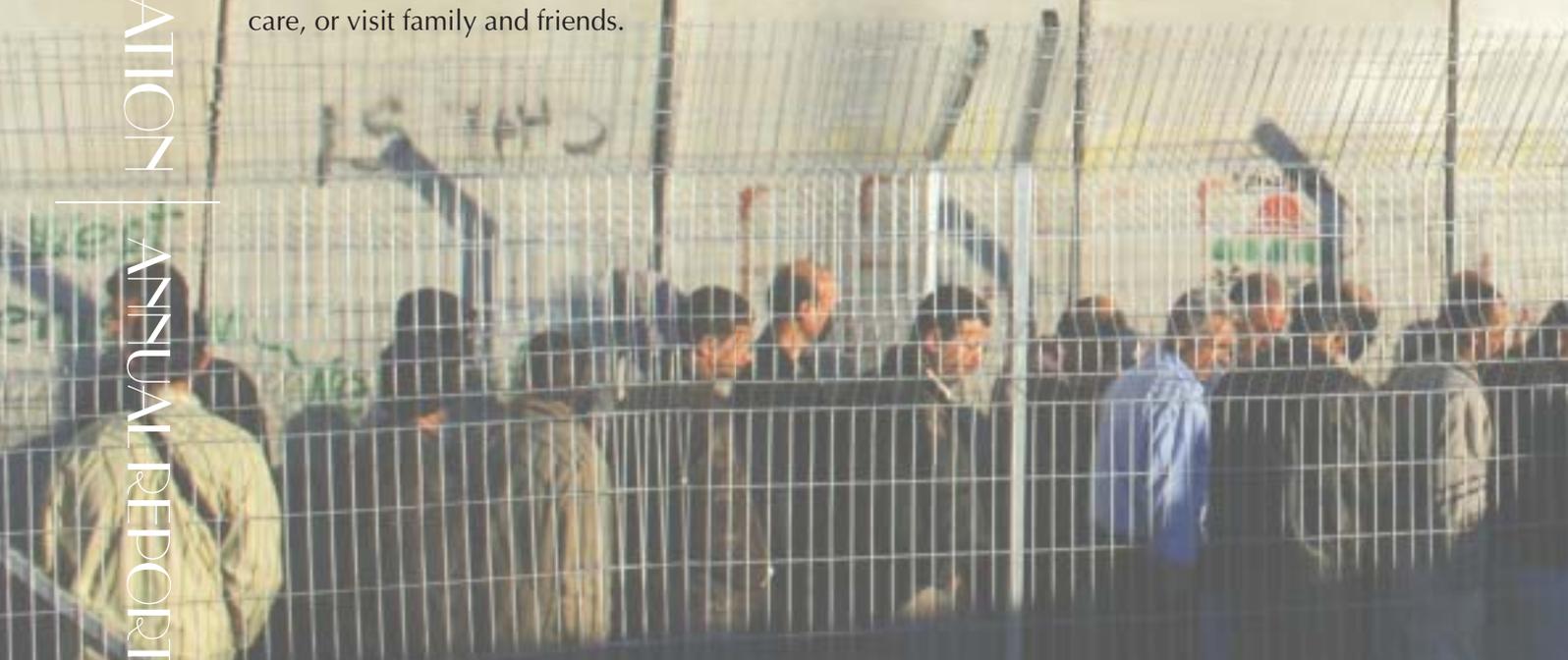
A map of the West Bank looks like a knotted cobweb of walls and roads. Cutting across Palestinian territory, roads constructed specifically for Israeli settlers separate local residents from farmland and neighboring towns. Cement roadblocks and large mounds of dirt appear overnight at entrances to villages, forcing residents to use one checkpoint-controlled roadway when they travel. As more settler-only roads are built and as the Separation Barrier weaves deep into Palestinian lands, West Bankers are finding themselves caught between physical barriers, unable to move from their towns in order to work, attend school, receive medical care, or visit family and friends.

International organizations have more leeway than local West Bankers when it comes to freedom of movement, but these obstacles greatly hinder the work of humanitarian groups as well. Palestinian staff members of the LWF village health clinics drive meandering routes to reach the villages, sometimes crossing roadblocks by foot and taking a taxi on the other side to reach the clinics. The permit and checkpoint system, always in flux, casts an air of uncertainty and instability over all LWF programs, as staff may be unable to cross a checkpoint on any given day. And beyond the limitations put on staff, the LWF must adjust to the needs of the people it serves.

The AVH busing program was established for just this

reason. As more and more patients spent hours waiting in line at checkpoints or were unable to reach Jerusalem altogether, AVH began busing its patients and staff in from the West Bank, allowing them to bypass the longest checkpoint waits. AVH also acts as a liaison between the patient and the Israeli ministries responsible for granting the approval and renewal of permits for patients.

With each new obstacle and requirement placed on the Occupied Territories, Palestinians and the humanitarian organizations for which they work are forced to find new ways to operate through the maze of restrictions.



Lined up against the cement slabs of the Separation Wall, men and women wait to enter the checkpoint at the edge of Bethlehem. The wait at checkpoints can take hours during the morning rush hour, as West Bankers attempt to enter Jerusalem for work. Photo by C. Granberg

VTC Works to Overcome Permit Obstacles

The LWF Vocational Training Center (VTC) has faced many changes and challenges in the past year due to the steady decline of the socio-economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Separation Wall near the VTC was near completion as of December 2006, a major part of it standing opposite the VTC in Beit Hanina. In areas where the wall is not yet complete, temporary fences and concrete blocks have been installed, disrupting the flow of traffic between Jerusalem and Ramallah. Such measures have severely restricted the access and movement of VTC trainees and trainers between the West Bank and the center. The VTC has been geographically and demographically isolated from the West Bank, leaving the center with the challenge of acquiring permits for staff and trainees in order that they may continue reaching the center.

Permits were not easily granted early in 2006. Only half of the VTC trainees were granted permits, and many permits were cancelled. As a result, the VTC implemented a temporary emergency plan, contacting all trainees and staff unable to come to the VTC because of denied permits. The VTC dedicated itself to working with the Israeli civil administration to find a better procedure for obtaining permits. These efforts brought positive results when the civil administration responded by issuing permits to the majority of students and staff, although the VTC lost one trainer due to the rejection of his permit. With this outcome, the VTC managed to contain the problem of permits and sustained its educational program.

The complicated and discriminatory policies of permits and travel restrictions directly challenges the future of the vocational program in Beit Hanina, a program that provides real opportunities for needy youth to overcome poverty.

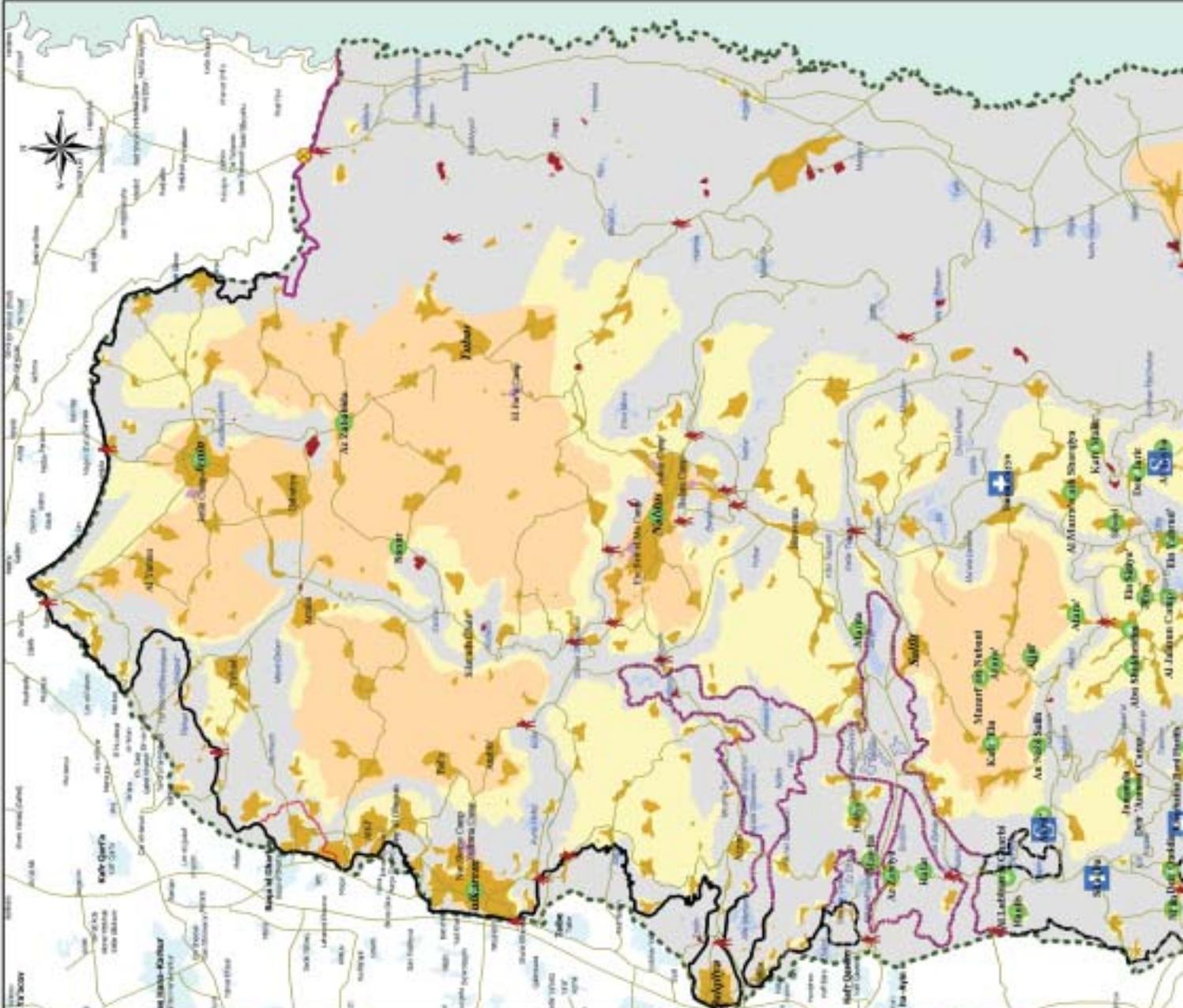
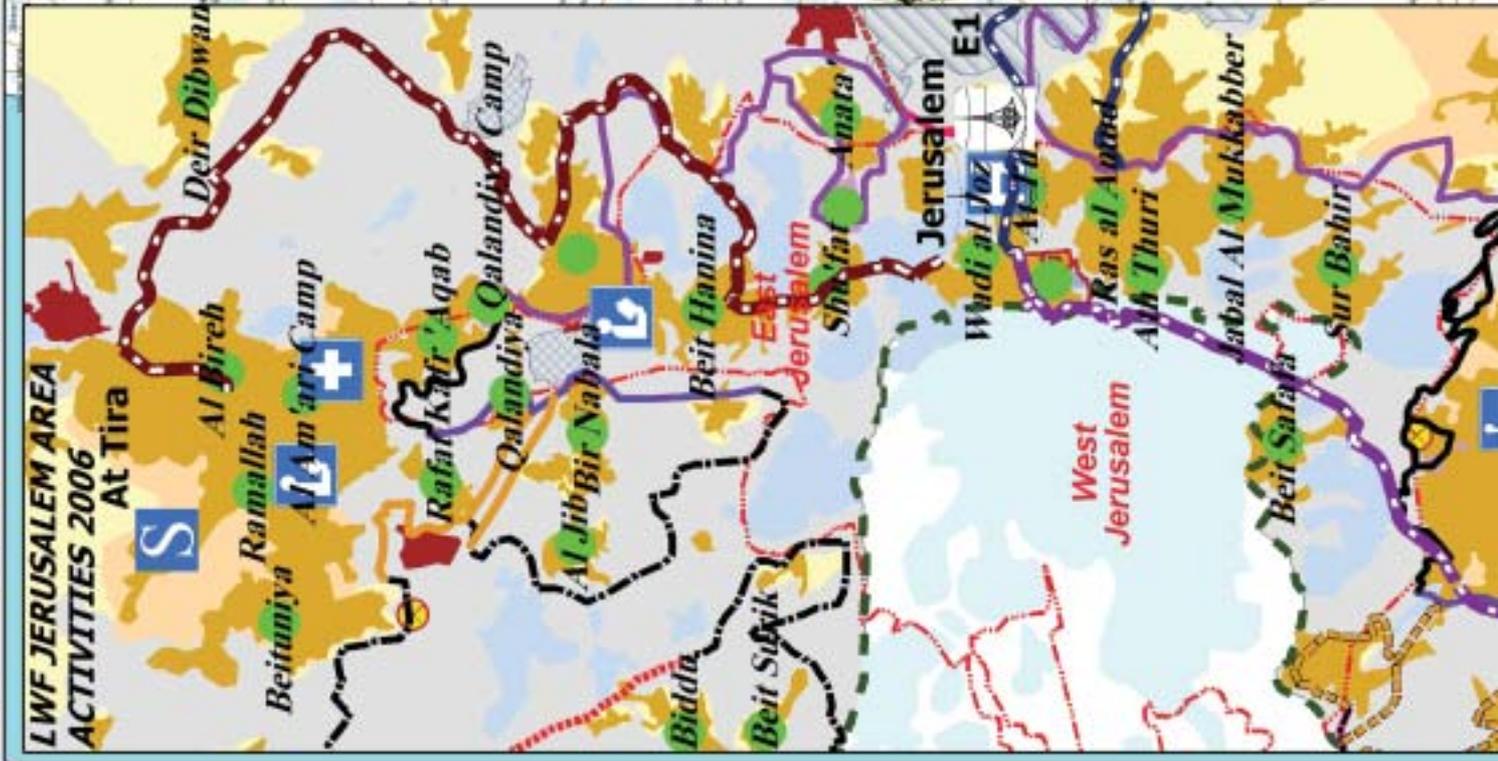


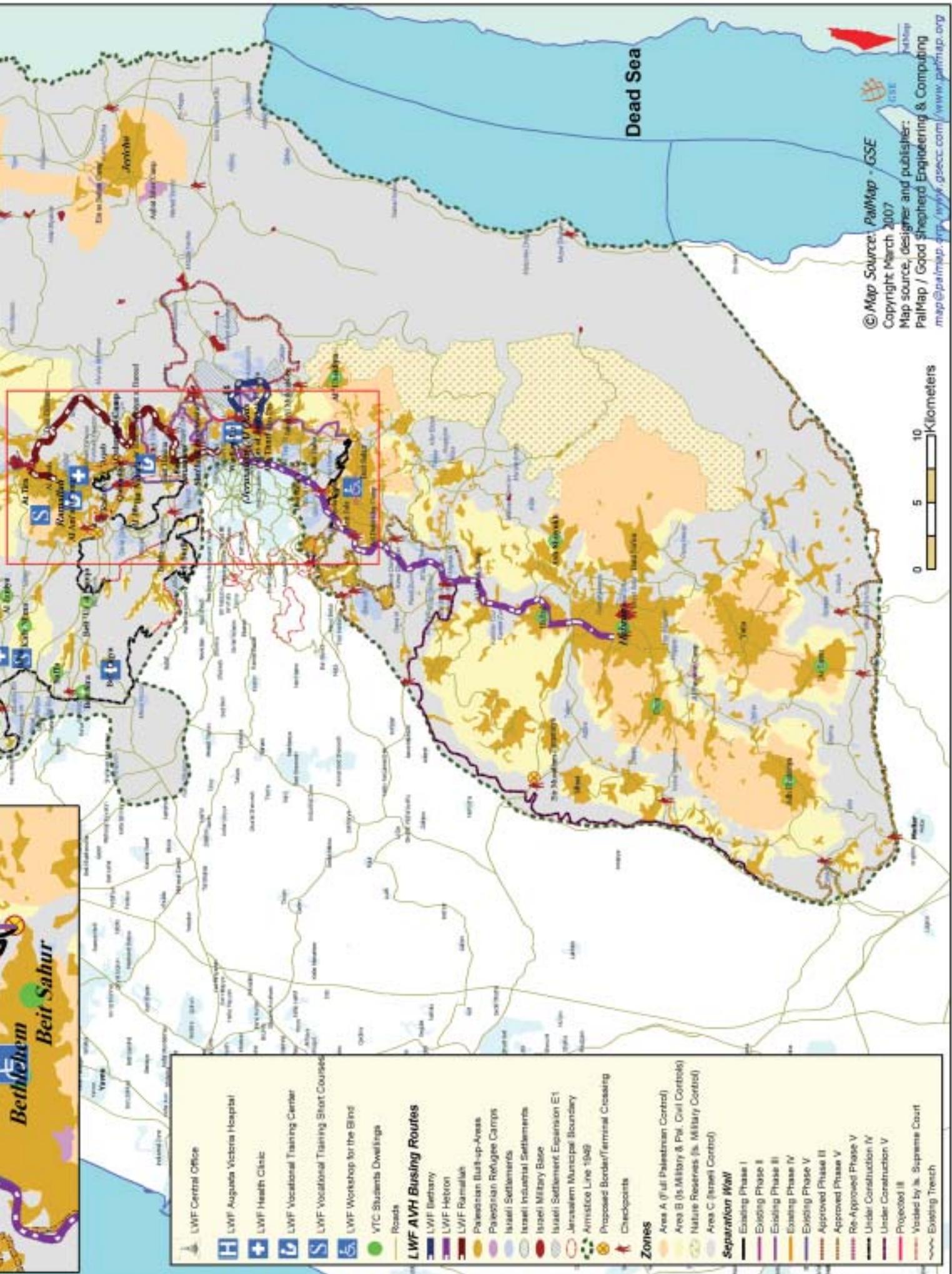
Abu Dis, a Jerusalem suburb well within the Palestinian Territories, has nonetheless been bisected by the Separation Barrier which runs two kilometers east of the Green Line, the border between Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Residents who once easily traveled to Jerusalem for work or school now have found themselves arbitrarily severed from Jerusalem, while neighbors on the other side of the wall can still access the city. Photo by M. Christenson



Metal fencing and roadblocks act as a temporary barricade until the Separation Wall is completed in Beit Hanina, just blocks from the LWF's Vocational Training Center (VTC). This closure was completed the second half of the year, keeping students from reaching the VTC, as well as snarling traffic between Jerusalem and Ramallah. The main road connecting the two cities was blocked, and nearby neighborhood streets are now noisy and potholed by the heavy traffic that must follow the complicated detours. Photo by F. Gharfeh

LWF WEST BANK AREA ACTIVITIES 2006





	LWF Central Office
	LWF Augusta Victoria Hospital
	LWF Health Clinic
	LWF Vocational Training Center
	LWF Vocational Training Short Courses
	LWF Workshop for the Blind
	VTC Students Dwellings
	Roads
LWF AVH Busing Routes	
	LWF Bethlehem
	LWF Hebron
	LWF Ramallah
	Palestinian Built-up Areas
	Palestinian Refugee Camps
	Israeli Settlements
	Israeli Industrial Settlements
	Israeli Military Base
	Israeli Settlement Expansion E1
	Jerusalem Municipal Boundary
	Armistice Line 1949
	Proposed Border/Farmalid Crossing
	Checkpoints
Zones	
	Area A (Full Palestinian Control)
	Area B (Is. Military & Pal. Civil Control)
	Nature Reserves (Is. Military Control)
	Area C (Israel Control)
Separation Wall	
	Existing Phase I
	Existing Phase II
	Existing Phase III
	Existing Phase IV
	Existing Phase V
	Approved Phase II
	Approved Phase V
	Re-Approved Phase V
	Under Construction IV
	Under Construction V
	Projected III
	Voiced by Is. Supreme Court
	Existing Trench



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STRONG CENTERS

Despite Hurdles, Vocational Training Centers Continue Educating

A struggle for access characterized the year for the LWF Vocational Training program. The July graduation ceremony at the Vocational Training Center (VTC) in Beit Hanina had several empty chairs among the graduates on stage, reminding us of the graduates who were unable to get past the checkpoints that day to attend the ceremony and receive their diplomas.

The Vocational Training Center in Ramallah (VTCR) continued to expand its training services to the villages isolated by the Separation Wall. Short courses teaching technical and entrepreneurial skills were offered for youth and unemployed individuals in these villages. A short course in Auto-Cad and Architectural Drawing was held for women in At-Tira Village, and another course in electrical installations started in Abud toward the end of the year.

There were 84 graduates from the two-year VTC program and 53 from the one-year apprentice program at the VTCR. This was the second year the VTCR has been in operation and the 54th year the vocational training program has been in existence. Women were integrated into the VT program five years ago.

Due in part to the difficulties of travel, the VTC in Jerusalem is receiving fewer applications from West Bank students; Jerusalemites now make up 50 percent of enrolled students. A successful campaign to obtain permits for students resulted in an increase of applications from West Bank students, however. Graduates of the VTCR apprenticeship program have shown high employment rates, one cause for an increase in the number of youth who applied to the program in 2006.

Students of the VT program have the option to train in auto-mechanics, auto-electronics, carpentry, metal work, aluminum work, telecommunications, or plumbing and central heating.



Sparks fly in the metalwork workshop at the Vocational Training Center where students weld metal gates and fences, practicing their technique and producing goods which will sell to local residents and businesses. Orders from the community give trainees a chance to participate in the working program, in which they help with production of goods as a way to help cover their tuition fees. The LWF campus on the Mount of Olives hires the VTC for metalwork and carpentry needs, along with some plumbing and heating repairs. Photo by K. Brown

ECONOMIC FREEFALL

Vocational Training Programs Navigate Through a Failing Economy

A deterioration of the economic situation characterized 2006 in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Foreign sanctions, withholding of Palestinian tax revenue by the Israeli government and an increased restriction on movement put much stress on the economy, local institutions and humanitarian agencies. The LWF's Vocational Training (VT) program was one of the many institutions affected by this economic decline. Because of both economic and political factors, the LWF VT centers are, together, functioning twelve percent below enrollment capacity.

Between 2000 and 2006, unemployment rates in the West Bank rose from ten to 24.2 percent. Unemployment rates among youth reached their highest point at 38.7 percent. The typical success of VT graduates has been stymied in the economic freefall of the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Graduates' employment rates, while still higher than the national average, have dropped in past years, and the salaries of employed graduates fell from an average of more than 60 NIS per day to less than 40 NIS per day. 31.4 percent of industrial establishments reported laying off workers. The starved economy has resulted in lower productivity and trade ability and a lower capacity to create new jobs for the large youth population.

Reduced salaries have pushed some previously employed graduates to quit their jobs, so the VT program has worked at linking graduates to job-creation programs. The VTTCR's apprenticeship program has shown higher employment rates, in part due to the skills and local connections trainees gain in their market training.

Restrictions on movement and internal closures within the West Bank hindered the transfer of goods and people, including VT students and staff as they tried to reach the centers. Typical reasons for dropping out of the VT program as of late are finance difficulties, restrictions of movement, and inability to obtain permits. There was an 8.5 percent dropout rate during 2006.

In the second quarter of 2006, poverty rates among Palestinians hovered above 65 percent and continue to rise. In impoverished households, the costs of tuition fees and transportation have made education a lower priority, particularly for females. Transportation costs have increased by 82 percent since 2000.

The VT program continued its working program, an opportunity for trainees to cover their fees by providing services in their field of study. The program has been in effect since 2003, and this year the Norwegian government through Norwegian Church Aid provided extra support in paying the fees of students unable to afford the costs.

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Sources: The Humanitarian Monitor, Nov. 2006; Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Quarterly Labor Force Survey, Q2 2006, Q3 2006; UN Humanitarian Update, April 2006; World Bank, Recent Economic Developments, Sept. 2006



In an aluminum workshop in Ramallah's industrial district, a trainee assembles a window frame. The first three months of the school year, trainees attend the VTCR full time, studying theory and technique. After these three months, their time is divided between the VTCR classroom and an apprentice position in the field of their choosing. The aluminum division of the VTCR was added in 2005, networking more Ramallah workshops with the center. Photo by K. Brown

LEARNING CURVE

A VT Graduate Puts His Skills to Use by Starting His Own Business

Ma'moon Sabbah, 18 years old, is a refugee. His family is originally from Jaffa but is now situated in the Ramallah District. Ma'moon graduated from the LWF Vocational Training Center in Ramallah (VTCR) in August 2006 after training in the telecommunications field. Training exposed him to the market, and before graduation Ma'moon was employed at the workshop where he did his apprenticeship. After graduation, Ma'moon continued to work in the same workshop as a partner, receiving one-third of the profit.

Two months after graduation, Ma'moon decided to open his own workshop. The practical skills he gained at the VTCR and through his apprenticeship, in addition to the entrepreneurial and business skills he gained from the management-training program at the VTCR, motivated him to open his own workshop. Each trainee at the VTCR is required to make a business plan, and that was the starting point for Ma'moon's business. Ma'moon opened his shop in November in the town of Al Beireh.

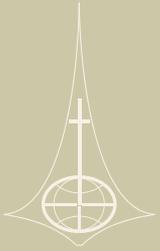
The VTCR provided Ma'moon with the technical and business support he needed to start his own business. The VTCR supported Ma'moon during the first stages of establishing the shop and purchasing necessary equipment. Once the workshop was running, the VTCR continued to help with technical back-up. Ma'moon is a success story of the VTCR apprenticeship program, which trains and prepares its students and extends its support to graduates whenever possible.



Ma'moon Sabbah and his former instructor chat at Ma'moon's mobile maintenance shop. Photo by K. Brown



VTC Director Francis Gharfeh and a trainer look over a student's work in a drafting and AutoCAD class. Students from the metalwork department study drafting, learning how to depict side- and top-views of metal bodies represented in diagrams. Photo by M. Christenson



CHALLENGING CONVENTIONS

Young Women Gain Skills and Confidence through Vocational and Technical Training

A total of 58 women have graduated from the LWF Vocational Training (VT) Program in the five years women have enrolled at the centers. Because of a drop in female enrollment, due in part to the Separation Wall and the weak economy, the VT program increased its promotion and advertising of the women's training program. LWF staff visited schools in the community and taught about the importance of continuing education for both males and females. Young women who enroll in technical training set examples for their family members and peers. Female VT students train in telecommunications and work to help support their families, studying and finding jobs in a field previously dominated by men. The LWF is proud of its policies to help female youth gain access to educational resources and to increase their participation in the community and economy.



Rasha Asaf. Photo by K. Brown

Rasha Asaf, VTC Graduate:

Rasha Asaf is from Al-Jeeb village. One of a nine-member family, Rasha graduated from the Jerusalem Vocational Training Center in 2006. Her sister graduated at the same time from university and is still unemployed, while Rasha found work immediately after graduation. Rasha is currently working in TV broadcasting at a local TV station, a connection she made during her internship program through the VTC. Her job has helped Rasha support her family, as her father, an electrician, is currently unemployed.

The training at the VTC helped shape Rasha's personality at the same time that she prepared for her career. She was a model to her other sister, who decided to study in the same field. Rasha's sister Kifaya is currently studying at the VTCR, and wants to have a career like her sister's.

Rasha's hometown of Al-Jeeb is only three kilometers away from the VTC. When she first enrolled, it took her only ten minutes to reach the center. By the end of her two years of training, it took her around an hour to get to the center, and she needed a permit in order to make the trip. But for Rasha, who has found a job, the training and the inconvenience of getting to the VTC have been worthwhile.



Hiba Al-Qaq, in the mobile phones shop where she works. Photo by K. Brown

Hiba Al-Qaq, VTCR Graduate:

Hiba Al-Qaq is a female graduate of the VTC in Ramallah. Her father supports her ten-person family, working as a seasonal farmer and day laborer. Hiba is from Mazare Nubani village, 28 kilometers from Ramallah.

Hiba heard about training at the center from a friend at a women's association. For Hiba, training at the center was a welcome opportunity, as she was unable to continue her academic education. She now works in a mobile phone maintenance workshop and helps support her family.

Before starting her new job, Hiba was unsure whether she wanted to work in a small workshop, hesitant of entering “the man’s world.” But she has found that she loves her work and has found herself in it. She is a role model for many other women. Groups of new trainees visit her at the shop, and they are encouraged after seeing her. Hiba introduced a female neighbor to the VTCR, and the neighbor now wants to enroll after seeing Hiba’s success and quick entry into the job market.

“The VTCR has changed my life 180 degrees. I can’t be appreciative enough of the VTCR and the support I got. It not only gave me a career but also strengthened my personality and helped me to accept others. This was the first time I was dealing with Christians and I realized that there are no differences between us.”

Hiba Al-Qaq

At Conference in Japan, LWF Vocational Training Consultant Presents Paper on Women in Technical Training



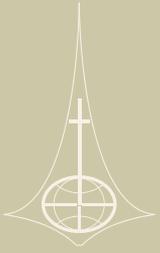
VT consultant Randa Hilal presents a paper on women’s education in Palestine at a technical education conference in Japan. Photo courtesy of R. Hilal

Randa Hilal, the LWF-VT consultant, visited Japan in February 2006 to give a presentation on the role of women in vocational training in Palestine and to present two papers, one on Women in Vocational Training and the other on Women in Education in Palestine. These presentations were given in Tokyo and Okayama, where the VT was presented as a successful model of female training and apprentice training.

The visit was part of the exchange program between the Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW) and Women from the Middle East (Jordan, Egypt and Palestine) and was supported by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The trip included a visit to Japanese vocational centers, industries, and schools. The delegation also met female ministers and members of parliament. During the visit, Hilal visited the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) and spoke about the LWF-VT program. Three months later, in May, a group from the JELC visited the VT programs in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. In November, delegations from JAUW and the Japanese Embassy visited the LWF Vocational Training Center in Ramallah, expressing their interest in the women’s training program.



A telecommunications graduate, Sundus Al-Faqeeh gave the keynote speech at the 2006 VTC graduation ceremony. Because several students were unable to attend the graduation due to checkpoints and permit problems, the ceremony was also an occasion for advocacy against the effects of the Separation Wall. Representatives from human rights organizations in Israel and the Palestinian Territories attended the ceremony in order to express their solidarity with the VT program and the graduates who were unable to attend. Photo by M. Christenson



TRADE ROUTES

Information and Labor are Shared Between VTCR and Local Market

One of the main elements of the LWF Vocational Training Center in Ramallah (VTCR) apprentice training program is its mutually beneficial relationship with the local market. Trainees receive much of their training in local workshops, and in return local businesses can send employees to the VTCR for updating courses that keep workers abreast of new technologies and skills. During the last two years, the VTCR collaborated with more than 120 companies and workshops, which provided practical training for students participating in the apprenticeship program.

Every year the VT program provides workers in the labor market and workshop owners with upgrading courses in many fields, such as new automobile technology for auto mechanics and AutoCAD drawing courses for carpenters and metalworkers. In 2006, the LWF/VTCR conducted a new course in modern fuel injection systems for the workers and workshop owners from the market with the support of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

The aim of such courses is to bridge the gap between the local market and the rapid change in technology. These courses are highly regarded by the local market and are part of the ongoing cooperation between the LWF and local businesses. These courses are conducted in cooperation with other institutes and NGOs such as the Chamber of Commerce, the GTZ, and the auto mechanics union.

Saleem Abaddy is one of many workshop owners who participated in the updating courses in the field of auto mechanics. With the rapid advancement in technology, the mechanic's job has evolved from mechanical to electronic technology. Because vehicles today possess complex computer and electronic systems, mechanics need to have a broader base of knowledge than in the past. Saleem has taken three courses through the VTCR, updating his knowledge and skills so he can perform maintenance on modern cars. With technical support from the VTCR, Saleem purchased a modern auto diagnostic tool designed for maintaining auto-electric systems. Training and new equipment have enabled Saleem to increase his profits and his customers' satisfaction.



Students in the telecommunications program learn the inner workings of appliances by repairing a variety of broken items, including hair dryers and telephones. Here, two trainees make adjustments to a broken radio until they are able to produce a signal and play music. Photo by M. Christenson



Saleem Abaddy
Photo by K. Brown



In July, local auto mechanics graduated from a fuel injection updating course, which was supported by GTZ and taught in cooperation with the auto-mechanics union of Ramallah. The course was held three afternoons a week for a four-month period. The VTCR has become a major source of information and technical support for the people who work in the auto mechanics field in Ramallah district, and there is a daily interaction between the local labor force and the VTCR's staff. Photo by M. Christenson



A series of training modules teaches trainees how various parts of automobiles operate. Created out of spare parts by an auto-mechanics trainer at the VT center in Beit Hanina, the equipment has taken the place of expensive training equipment in the workshop. Due to limitations of budget and resources, VTC trainers are encouraged to build demonstration equipment for their departments. Trainees who help with these constructions gain valuable experience practicing basic techniques of their field. In the auto mechanics department, many training modules have been used to assist in training. Most of these modules were built from used parts of automobiles. Photo by K. Brown

The Lutheran World Federation

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Acting Director, LWF Vocational Training Center
– Ramallah

* Joined Advisory Board in May 2006

**Yousef Shalian became the VTCR Acting Director replacing Randa Hilal on 1 October 2006. Randa continues to serve as a consultant to the LWF on vocational training.

Vocational Training Program Statistics, 2006

LWF-VTC:

Department	Year the department was Established	No. of Trainees 2006/2007		No. of Graduates
		First Year	Second Year	
Auto- Mechanics	1964	20	12	12
Auto-Electrics	2003	18		22
Carpentry	1950	14	14	12
Electronics/Telecommunications (Female)	2000	4	2	7
Electronics/Telecommunications (Male)	2001	15	9	5
Plumbing & Central Heating	1988	16	10	13
Metal Work (Welding, Forging and Aluminum works)	1950	14	13	13
		101	60	84

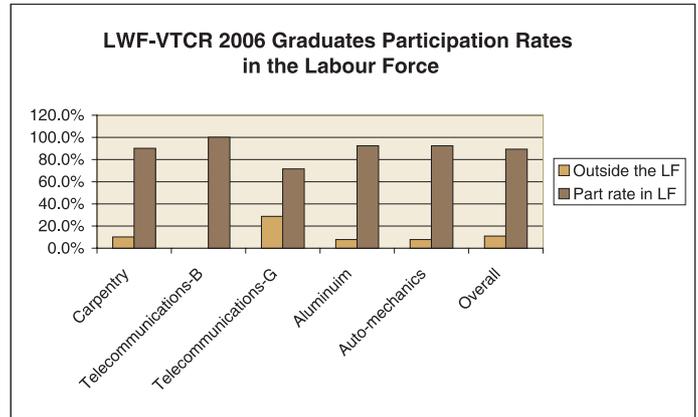
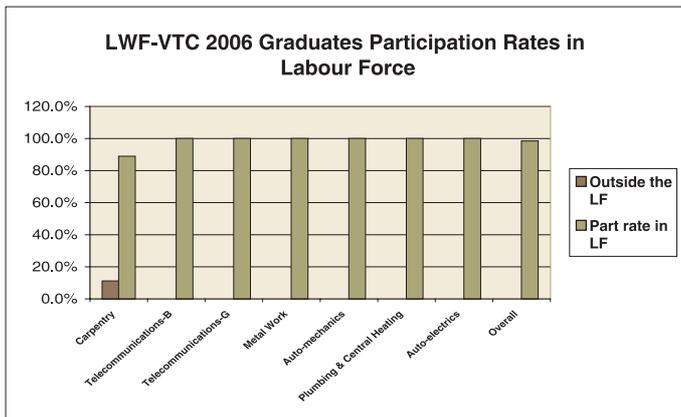
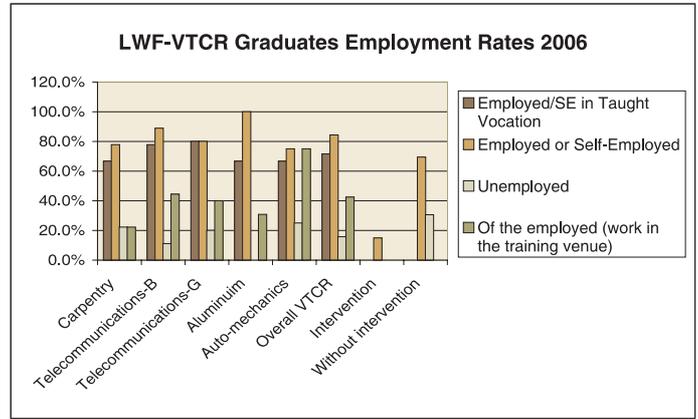
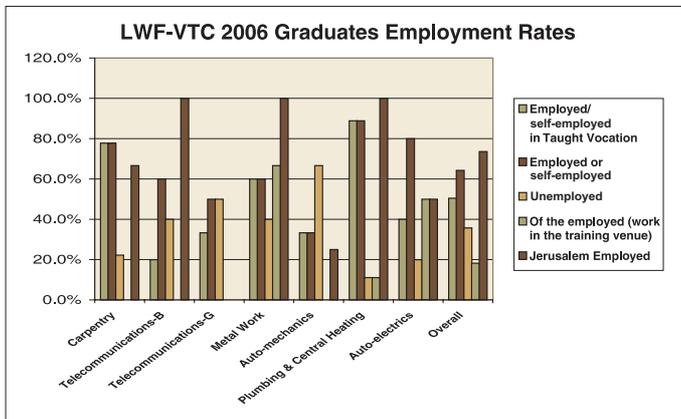
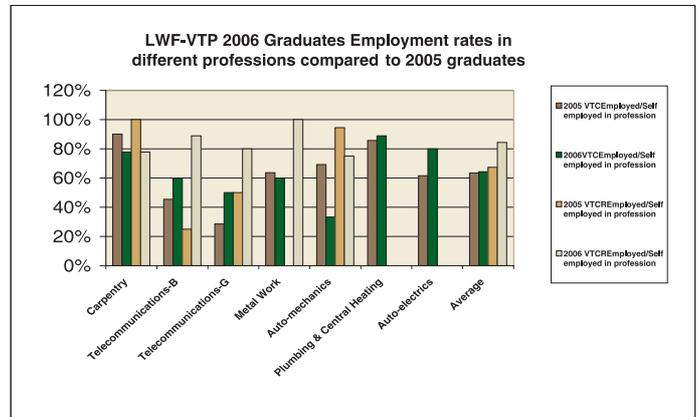
LWF-VTCR (Apprenticeship training - 1 year system):

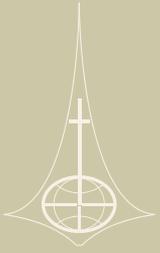
Department	Year the department was Established	No. of Trainees 2006/2007	No. of Graduates
Auto-Mechanics	2004	20	13
Carpentry	2004	14	11
Electronics/Telecommunications (Female)	2004	7	7
Electronics/Telecommunications (Male)	2004	7	9
Aluminum works	2005	17	13
		65	53

Multiple System Trainees Data:

System	Accreditation	Duration	Output of System	# of trainees
Vocational Training (06/07)	Ministry of Education	2 years	Skilled Labour	143
Vocational Training (06/07)	Ministry of Labour	11 months	Skilled Labour	83
Tawjihi (National exam for continuing education)	Ministry of Education	300 Hrs	Tawjihi	8
Courses at the villages (Jan- June)	LWF	100-140 Hrs	Limited Skilled	27
Courses at the villages (Sept-Dec)	LWF	100-140 Hrs	Limited Skilled	15
Courses for the unemployed	LWF	100-140 Hrs	Limited Skilled	15
Upgrading courses for the market	LWF	30-300 Hrs	Upgrading skills	18

2006 employment rates for the LWF-VT program were stronger than the national average, with 74 percent of VTC and VTCR graduates employed in their trained profession or another profession within six months of graduation, compared to 61.3 percent of all youth throughout Palestine. The VTCR apprenticeship system showed graduate employment rates of 84 percent, compared to the VTC's 64 percent.





A DROP IN THE BUCKET

Volunteers Produce Liters of Olive Oil, Help Support the Work of AVH

When working alone, it can take hours to finish picking a single, small olive tree. And considering the nearly 800 olive trees on the LWF campus, finishing the harvest in the month-long olive season seems like a daunting task. By the end of the harvest season, however, the LWF had nearly 700 liters of olive oil from three trips to the press in the town of Beit Jala.

The LWF has no shortage of olive trees, but when it comes to time and people, outside assistance is needed. Volunteers have been a mainstay of the harvest year after year, helping to pick the trees in time, and ultimately, aiding AVH patients. This year, large groups of students from Schmidt's Girls' School in Jerusalem and the LWF Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina came to help with the harvest, spending a full day in the olive groves down the hill from the LWF office. Individuals who live in the area or were in town for tourism or conferences also dropped by to help.

The olive oil that results from the annual harvest is bottled and shipped to congregations around the world. The money they donate for the olive oil strengthens the Augusta Victoria Hospital's Fund for the Poor. The Fund helps to cover medical costs of patients unable to pay their bills.



Elbow-deep in bottles of olive oil, LWF intern Margit Christenson prepares a shipment for a congregation in the United States. Olive oil, which is available throughout the year, is particularly popular in the seasons of Advent and Lent, when many churches hold fundraisers to support the work of the LWF and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Photo by K. Brown



Small helpers make a big contribution to the olive pickers, scooping the fallen olives into buckets. Olives are typically picked and dropped onto nets under the trees, then sifted through for leaves and dirt before being poured into burlap bags, where they stay dry before going to the press. Photo by M. Christenson



AVH had its biggest turn-out yet for the day of olive picking by the hospital and LWF central office staff. Following a full morning and afternoon working in the olive groves, LWF and AVH staff and families stopped working just short of sunset and held a barbeque. Photo by K. Brown

ORDERING OLIVE OIL

LWF olive oil is stored in hand-blown bottles made from recycled glass by Palestinian artisans in Hebron. Each 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.

Olive oil can be requested 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 US\$20 per bottle, which includes shipping. Visitors to the campus can receive bottles for a suggested donation of US\$15.

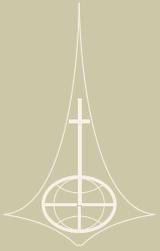
Other options include a donation of US\$200, which pays for a gallon of olive oil for the AVH kitchen, or a donation of US\$1,000 for the planting of a new olive tree on the LWF grounds.

To order olive oil or to make a donation for 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, made out to the Lutheran World Federation, to:

Rev. Mark B. Brown
The Lutheran World Federation
P.O. Box 19178
Jerusalem 91191

Contact us at:
Email: info@lwfjerusalem.org
Phone: +972.2.628.2289
Fax: +972.2.628.2628





SUPPORT NETWORKS

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION ANNUAL

Material Aid and Scholarships Connect Local Communities with the LWF

Hand-made quilts and school kits made in Canada and the United States arrived in Jerusalem by the thousands. LWF acts as a steppingstone between the cargo ships and the people who most need the material resources sent by Lutheran World Relief and Canadian Lutheran World Relief. Delivering goods by the truckload, the LWF reaches out to thousands of people each year through its contacts with orphanages, elderly homes, churches, schools, village councils, and refugee camp community centers. These organizations work in partnership with the LWF to assure that the supplies make it into the hands of those with the most pressing needs.

This yearly process of distributing useful materials helps connect the LWF to the people in the community and raises the community's awareness of the services offered by the LWF. Young people in the community often learn of the LWF vocational training centers or the scholarship program through other organizations that help distribute goods.

The LWF scholarship program offers educational opportunities to Palestinian youth in the Occupied Territories, allowing students to receive university educations that they otherwise could not afford. The LWF awards educational loans and occasional grants on the basis of financial need and academic performance.

There are 24 scholarship recipients for the 2006-2007 school year. The fifteen female and nine male students represent the Muslim and Christian faiths and are enrolled at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, Bethlehem University, and Birzeit University near Ramallah. As a group, they cover a wide range of programs of study, including medicine, business, engineering, English, dentistry, physics, public administration, and law. The students come from the towns of Abud, Battir, Beit Sahour, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jenin, Jerusalem, Nahaleen, Ramallah, and Zatar.

Outside the storage facility on the Mount of Olives campus, LWF guard Naji Abu Juma' and Nabil Batarseh load a delivery of supplies for the Al Bir Society in Jericho. An organization offering opportunities and support to those in Jericho, Al Bir distributed quilts and baby kits from the LWF to families in Aqbat Jaber Refugee Camp in Jericho. The LWF also provided sewing kits and sewing fabric to Al Bir Society's sewing school, which they run for young girls in the community. Photo by M. Christenson



Related Agencies and Member Churches

Action by Churches Together (ACT)
Australian Lutheran World Service
Bread for the World
Canadian Lutheran World Relief
Church of Sweden
DanChurchAid/Danida
Diak Werk, Stuttgart
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
Evangelische Kirche im Deutschland
Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V. (EED)
Finn Church Aid
German Development Cooperation
German National Committee of the LWF
Hauptausschuss
Icelandic Church Aid
Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lutheran World Relief
National Council of Churches in Australia
Norwegian Church Aid
Norwegian Church Aid/Ministry of Foreign Affairs
United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)



The Bethlehem workshop for the blind, started in 1968, functions semi-autonomously with the support of the LWF. Blind workers manufacture a variety of cane products (including baskets and rug-beaters), brooms and brushes. The LWF Jerusalem Program assists the workshop by paying rent for the facility, supplying materials required for the manufacture of brushes and brooms, and taking care of health insurance for the workers. Photo by C. Granberg



Kindergarteners in the village of Zababdeh show off their new health kits, which were donated by the LWF and distributed by Caritas. Caritas, a Catholic organization, runs a program in the northern West Bank, educating children on personal health and hygiene and providing nutritious food for school children. Material resources from the LWF help Caritas and other organizations in their work throughout the Palestinian Territories. Photo courtesy of Caritas



THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION Department for World Service - Jerusalem Program Income Received Through Geneva:

Bread for the World	160,000
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	21,050
Church of Brethren	25,000
Church of Sweden	706,114
DanChurchAid / Danida	115,671
Diak Werk, Stuttgart	100,766
Disciples: Week of Compassion	12,000
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America	547,972
Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada	66,835
Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada - MS Witt Hospital	4,215
Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)	63,345
Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V.(EED)	218,369
FinnChurchAid	60,511
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	1,000
GNC-HA Deutscher Hauptausschuss	114,759
Icelandic Church Aid	10,000
Lutheran World Relief	150,000
Mr. & Mrs. Campbell	5,000
Mr. & Mrs. Wilson	100
National Council of Churches in Australia	19,074
Norwegian ChurchAid	122,863
Norwegian ChurchAid/Ministry of Foreign Affairs	142,835
Other Donors	575
Presbyterian Church Of Canada	25,927
S. Hauksson	2,000
Trinity Lutheran College	500
United Church of Canada	4,125
United Church of Christ	5,000
United Methodist Committee on Relief	10,000

THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION Department for World Service - Jerusalem Program COMPARATIVE FINANCIAL DATA

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Revenues				
Vocational Training Program	934,955	778,097	874,705	1,014,123
Scholarship Program	27,055	40,337	28,641	24,627
Augusta Victoria Hospital (Operations)	7,110,007	6,472,780	6,333,601	6,513,912
Village Health Clinics	206,431	194,586	211,490	222,432
Emergency through ACT	1,515,152	411,431	356,239	626,781
Expenses				
Vocational Training Program	934,955	906,796	771,933	988,196
Scholarship Program	27,055	25,881	24,092	24,173
Augusta Victoria Hospital	6,279,907	7,342,873	6,410,130	6,560,796
Village Health Clinics	206,431	175,371	200,124	183,449
Emergency through ACT	1,515,152	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
Mahmoud 'Adarbeh	Department Head - Theory and Electronics & Telecommunication
Thaer Shqair	Vocational Training Quality Controller
Randa Hilal	Vocational Training Consultant

IV. VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER – RAMALLAH (VTCR)

Yousef Shalian	Acting Director
Amer Khalaf	Short Courses Coordinator
Thaer Shqair	Vocational Training Quality Controller
Randa Hilal	Vocational Training Consultant

V. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Suad Freij	Supervisor
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There were hundreds of visitors to the LWF Jerusalem Program in 2006, including individuals, delegations and groups from:

American Jewish Committee • Association Iceland-Palestine • Church of Sweden Aid • Church World Service • Churches for Middle East Peace • DanChurchAid • Diocese of Borg, Church of Norway • Diocese of Lund, Church of Sweden • Educational Opportunities, Florida • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church • Japanese Association of University Women • The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod • Luther Seminary • Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest • Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary • Northern Illinois Synod/ELCA • Norwegian Church Aid • Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary • Presbytery of Ohio Valley (PCUSA) • Saint John's Lutheran Church, Columbia, Pennsylvania • Saint Stephen's Lutheran Church, Monona, Wisconsin • Sør-Trøndelag County Council and Trondheim Municipality, Norway • Southeast Michigan Synod/ELCA • Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland, Washington • Trinity Lutheran Church, Staten Island, New York • Trinity Lutheran Seminary • United Church of Christ • The United Methodist Church • U.S. Agency for International Development • World Council of Churches • and Yale Divinity School.

LWF Donors for 2006

The LWF is grateful to the many groups and individuals who have supported us through the year, including:

Allan Blunt • Anita Rohwedder • Anna Marie Aagaard • Dr. Arland Jacobson • Arthur and Edith Holmstrom • Barbara Abraham • Barbara Islek • Bernadette Kosterlitzky • Bernard and Carol Kern • Bethany Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota • Blackbird Films Ltd • Rev. Bryan A. Leone • Brynhild Rowberg • Calvary Lutheran Church, Clarkston, Michigan • The Campbells • Carol Jensen • Carol Gaskamp • Carol Krentz • Carol Kreyling • Catherine Pate • Christ the King Lutheran Church, Nahsua, New Hampshire • Christa Radermacher • Church of Sweden • Church World Service • Clarence and Joan Musgrove • Rev. Curtis L. Zieske • David Adams • Dr. David Duval • David Miller • David Percy • Deborah Sullum • Diakonische of Borg • Diane Hensel • Disciples: Week of Compassion • Don Tohkubbi • Doris Schwarz • Dorothy Martens • The Dowhowers • Edward Leask • Edward Schreiber • Epiphany Lutheran Church, Denver, Colorado • Erika and Kurt Kosterlitzky • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, M.S. Witt Hospital • First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, North Carolina • First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota • First Lutheran Church, Decorah, Iowa • First Lutheran Church, Saint James, Minnesota; Franklin Clum • Genevieve Odegaard • George and Cindy Fosselius • Gertrude Bauser • Glen and Phyllis Brown • Glenda and Tim Christenson • Gloria Dei Lutheran Church • Dr. Gordon and Gloria Adams • Grace Lutheran Church • Gregory and Lisa Buck • The Gotzsehs • Hans Morten Haugen • The Harbers • Hazel Peterson • Heidi Lopez • Helen Karchere • Helen Weiss Phelps • Helen Smith • Holden Village • Howard Hanson • James Lapenn • Janet Crouse • Janet Szulga • Janice McCann • Jared Stahler • Jeff Lee • John Eberts • John and Nancy Greves • Julie Norman • Karen Jackson • Karen Vagley • Katherine Leone • Kathleen Rivet • Kathryn Neraus • Kathy Kamphoefner • Kay Edwards • Keatts Chenault; Keira Goldstein • Kenneth Ogden • Kim and Mike • Kim Wyon • Kirsten Peterson • Laurel and Ralph Doermann • Lauren Black • Rev. Leid Danin • Lemon Grove Lutheran Church Women, Lemon Grove, California • Lene, Morgens, and Elise Therkildsen • Libeke Borum • Lillian Thiede • Linda Hansen • Lisa Hansen • Lois Glock • Loren Gustafson • Lori Carey • Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota • Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary, Mount Prospect, Illinois • Lutheran Church of the Cross, Morris, Manitoba • Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Marietta, Georgia • Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia Student Body, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • M. Paul Garrett • Marian and Thomas Wolf • Rev. Margaret Isaacson • Margaret Kiekhaefer; Margaret Wesche • Marilyn Bremer • Rev. Mark and Susanne Brown • Martha Monson Lowe • Maryam Grape • Mennonite Central Committee • Messiah English Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland • Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the ELCA • Rev. Michael P. Thomas • Monika Beaux • Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota • Bishop Murray D. Finck • Nada and Nelius Ronning • Nanna Oken • Nikolaus and Christiane Kircher • Nina Furnes • Norman Cotton • Norwegian Church Aid • Östen Gunnarsson • Peter Ferriby • Peter Prove • Phil Bruening • Phil Webster • Presbyterian Church of Canada • Presbytery of Ohio Valley • Dr. R. Guy Erwin • Ralph Strand • Renee Elizabeth Shoop • Renny Gye • Resurrection Lutheran Church, Weirton, West Virginia • Rev. Robert and Shirley Ann Bacher • Robert J. Wesche • Rev. Rochelle Stackhouse • Ruth Bartelt • Ruth Hansen • Sally and Marlin Vis • Sam Seikaly • Sara Thomas • Sarah Bay • Sevinn Runar Hauksson • Shary Stadler • Shiren Barband • Simon Lange • Souad Freij • Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA • Southeastern Synod of the ELCA • Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA • St. Andrew's Church Lutheran Campus Center, Champaign, Illinois • St. John's Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin • St. John Lutheran Church, Rosenfeld, Manitoba • St. John's Lutheran Church, Stamford, Connecticut • St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Lutherville, Maryland • St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ramp Builders, Streator, Illinois • St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Durham, North Carolina • St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Mass City, Michigan • St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Monona, Wisconsin • Stephen Krajcik • Sue Kippels • Rev. Suguru and Misato Matsuki • Susan Trainor • Dr. Sylvia Campbell • Tim McCann • Trinity Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan • Trudi Black • Ulrike Wohlrab • United Church of Canada • United Church of Christ • United Methodist Committee on Relief • Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA • Vesper Society, San Francisco, California • Vicki Creutz • Victor Noll • The Wilsons • Women of the ELCA/First Lutheran Church • Yvonne Kline.

COVER CAPTIONS



Front cover:

The LWF olive harvest is helped along by Alex Nassar and Tamer Da'ana of the Vocational Training Center in Beit Hanina. One warm Saturday in November, students picked olives on the Mount of Olives campus, adding to the total of bags the LWF took to the presses. The olives, once pressed into oil, are sold as a fundraiser for the Augusta Victoria Hospital Fund for the Poor, a program that helps pay the medical fees of impoverished patients. Photo by P. Jeffrey



Back cover:

Decked out in face paint and balloon accessories, young patients at Augusta Victoria Hospital, along with their siblings, celebrate at the AVH Children's Festival. The celebration, which was held in July for the children who are frequent patients at the hospital, featured skits by actors, music and Palestinian dance troupes. Photo by K. Brown

LWF Jerusalem 2006 Annual Report

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Associate Editor: **Margit Christenson**

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

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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).



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