RC AYR

HOLY LAND APPEAL 2017

How you can help the Christians remaining in the Holy Land

Some of you will know that I am involved with a couple of welfare projects in Bethlehem and the surrounding villages on the West Bank – one which helps Christian widows, another which helps young Christian families deal with the day to day problems of living in harsh circumstances. Sadly there is no welfare state in Palestine. I make a private visit to Bethlehem every year to offer some support to these people whom I have come to love, and I take with me over-the-counter medicines that they cannot afford to buy or find difficult to obtain. This is where I/they ask for your help.

This year I have been asked by the Bethlehem Welfare Committee if I can take with me:

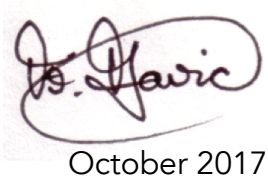
For adults:	Omega 3 capsules; Calcium tablets; Vitamin D tablets; Voltarol Gel.
For children:	Multi vitamins (chewable); Liquid vitamins for infants; Cold and Flu sachets; Pain killers for children.

If you could possibly donate any of these for me to take to the Holy Land in early January 2018 they/ I would be very grateful. We take all of these things for granted as they are readily available to us, but such is the poverty in many parts of the West Bank for Christians that these things are simply beyond their financial reach. From next weekend, and for the next couple of months, there will be a box in the porch in all three churches for any donations you feel able to make. Each week on the Newsletter I will ask for a particular item to be handed in on the following weekend – this will hopefully provide a good range of the things that they need. Thank you.

On the same subject, but from a slightly different angle, last year you were all incredibly generous to me at Christmas and, without in any way wanting to sound ungrateful for your kindness and generosity, you gave me much more than I deserved or needed. This year, if I may be so bold, could I ask you not to buy anything for me at Christmas? If you insist on giving me a gift, could I ask instead that you put a little money into an envelope which I can than take with me to the Holy Land and it can be used to provide some relief to the Christians in Bethlehem and the surrounding villages? Last year, thanks to you, I took £1,000 with me and this was used to provide health care to a number of people, it helped with the college fees of two teenagers, and the children and widows also received some treats at Easter.

Thank you for taking the time to read this - it is much longer than I intended! If you can help in any way with the above then be assured that whatever you are able to give will be used well. Please also continue to pray for the Christian community throughout the Holy Land, they are under severe economic pressure for many reasons, and more and more of them are considering emigrating from the land of their birth. Your help may ensure that a Christian presence remains in the Holy Land.

Thank you, and may God bless all of us



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