



December 2019

Hope School NEWSLETTER

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14



Dear brother and sisters,

November has come and gone, the weather has become colder, but our hearts certainly have not. There have been so many reasons to celebrate and be joyful: birthdays, visits from international friends, the coming of Christmas, and singing a song of blessing around a newly planted olive tree symbolizing our gratefulness towards our friends and a joint commitment to peace. Though the occupation continues, at Hope School we celebrated Independence Day and using as a day to **remind ourselves to continue to be active and steadfast in our commitment to unity, peace, love and coexistence.** We remind ourselves that **these are the elements which bring true transformation and justice, which Jesus Christ exemplified and calls us to, and which we have always deeply longed for.**

Christmas markets, Christmas trees, and lights shining above every street marks the beginning of the Christmas season. On November 30th, thousands gathered for Bethlehem’s annual Christmas tree lighting. We also took part in a great Christmas bazaar to raise funds for the school at the beautiful Church of the Redeemer, which was bustling with locals as well as internationals from all over the world.

A highlight of this month was our school’s three day book fair that was open to the community. It was inaugurated by community leaders, including the mayor and the minister of education. The minister of education shared timely words about the importance of written resources from trusted writers in a generation where social media often takes precedence. **We were reminded that accessibility is key in sustaining the empowering resource that books are, and we hope to improve that at Hope School.**

As we prepare for the year’s end, we look back on God’s faithfulness, provision and presence at Hope School throughout this year. There have been so many things to rejoice over and many blessings received. At the same time, there are many things we wish to improve and develop, which requires more finances than we currently have. We hope to complete our gymnasium, which would be used by our school as well as to rent out for community events, giving us another way to generate income. We also continue to seek sponsorship for students who are unable to pay for their school fees due to their families’ economic situations. We welcome your support in any capacity you can offer.

Being located in the land near Jesus’ birth, we reflect greatly upon the meaning of Jesus coming to live among us; as Isaiah prophesied, He came to bring good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted and bring freedom to the captive. And then, he calls us to do the same. We hope for this in our ministry, land, as well as for the communities in which you work and live. We thank-you for your support along the way and for the strength and hope we receive through your prayers, donations and visits. May God bless you this Christmas season.

Sincerely,
Hope School, Beit Jala



(Above) A group from the ELCA Wisconsin came to visit and were the second group to plant a tree of peace in our **Garden of Peace.**



(Above) Traditional clothing for Independence Day.

Contact Us

www.hopeschoolbeitjala.com

info@hopeschoolpal.com

00972-2-2742268



(Above) Browsing the book fair.



Alumni Profile

Alaa graduated from Hope School this past June. When she arrived in 2017, she had little confidence in herself due to issues at her previous school. Our teachers wondered whether she would even pass grade 12, but she proved to be successful. She is now thriving in University of Bethlehem’s business administration faculty. When asked about the reason for her success, she said that “at Hope School, I found a different atmosphere... People dealt with me as I was, rather than how people wanted me to be”.

