

# Harvest

# Spring 2021

Awareness Foundation: building peace through education

[www.awareness-foundation.com](http://www.awareness-foundation.com)



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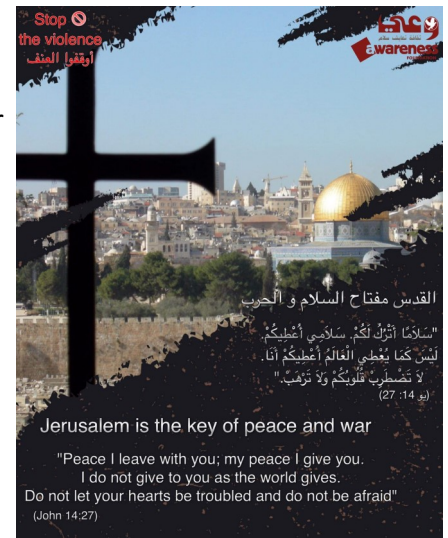




## The Executive Director

### The Revd DR Nadim Nassar

Another vicious and evil wave of violence and bloodshed in the Holy Land led by unholy people on both sides. Hundreds of innocent people lost their lives and thousands of others lost their livelihoods and homes in the name of God and religion. Israel still pushes the world to recognise it as a Jewish state exploiting the historical suffering of the Jewish people. On the other hand, Hamas is hijacking the Palestinian cause and the right for the Palestinian people to have an independent state, and monopolises the decision of peace and war in the name of Islam. Both sides are fully supported by external actors and the result is, as usual, devastation of ordinary people trying to live their everyday lives in peace. It is time to stand up against this madness and demand of the appropriate international powers that serious effort to take religion out of this hugely sensitive matter is made. It needs to be treated as a political and diplomatic mission, so that an end to this conflict, which has taken decades with no hope for a solution on the horizon, can finally be achieved. Jerusalem has always been the key for peace and the key for war in the region - this should not be manipulated by anyone because people of the three monotheistic faiths have the right to visit the Holy City free from any interference, pressure or persecution.



## The Executive Director Tribute

My dear brother and friend St. John, fifteen years of fellowship walking side by side proclaiming the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ passed like a twinkle of an eye. Fifteen years of a story worth telling, sharing and celebrating passed leaving us bonded with spirit of our risen Lord, packed with memories of laughing, crying, shouting, praying, writing, traveling and much more.

Goodbye my friend, go forward to meet the eternal light, embrace the eternal life and rejoice in the eternal joy with the one who died and rose for you. Blessed are you my friend because you fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith. Now the crown of righteousness is waiting for you.

Goodbye my dear brother in Christ, my writing companion and my friend who could make me laugh even the English way. We love you and commend you to His loving hands and heart. Although you had no family and a very small circle of friends, we, at the Awareness Foundation, staff, friends and trustees were your family and friends. We embraced you, accepted you, loved you and lived with you the highs and the lows and the joy and the sorrow. You left in us your unique fingerprint which will always give us warmth and make us smile. Rest in peace our beloved colleague and friend and we will miss you.



## Pen & Paper

The global pandemic has prevented us from providing physical support to our Little Heroes, but we will not abandon them. We launched the Pen & Paper Campaign early 2021 which provides stationery for the children, to ensure they know they are still in our hearts and minds, and that we will never forget them.

The Middle East coordinator and her team worked hard to distribute to more than 500 children a package of “7 notebooks of different sizes, a drawing book, blue & red pens, pencils, a pair of scissors, an Eraser, 2 sharpeners, colouring pens & a ruler.”

We would like to thank wholeheartedly everyone who brought a smile to the faces of our Little Heroes by donating to the Pen & Paper Campaign.




**PEN AND PAPER CAMPAIGN**

CONTACT US:  
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Hey look! I'm a blank page, why don't you write something on me?

Great! Why don't we write a song together?

Providing new school stationery for the children of Syria, Lebanon and Iraq.  
*'You will not be forgotten.'*

**Donate Now to support a child in need**

“Stationery is vital for school, please help to provide for the children!”

We will continue our campaign to help more children in the next academic year because the demand is so huge and we would like to encourage all of you to continue this important initiative.

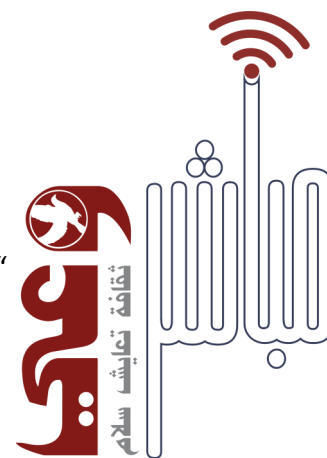
# Awareness Foundation Live Lent Programme 2021

## In Arabic

Due to the success of the previous two seasons, we decided to continue our Facebook and online based programme **Awareness Live**. The third season took place during the Lent season according to both Western and Eastern calendar. The overwhelming positive response of the people gave us the indication that there was still huge thirst for the world of God.

Our guests speakers & the subjects:

1. **The Preacher Huda Kandalaft:** "The church is between baptism and the cross."
2. **Fr Habib Danial:** "How to witness to hope in today's world."
3. **The Revd Dr Habib Badr:** "Simon of Cyrene & carry the cross of the others."
4. **The Revd Dr Nadim Nassar:** "Was God silent on the cross?"
5. **Archimandrite Alexei Nasour:** "The Orthodox concept of the icon."
6. **Sister Yara Matte:** "Why are you crying, woman, and who are you looking for? Mary Magdalene in front of the empty tomb. John 20:11-18"



We are delighted to say that the success of the third season of Awareness Live Programme touched the life of many people around the world and we are overwhelmed by the outcome. You can see all the sessions on our Arabic Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AwarenessFoundationMiddleEast>

## In English

We have started **Awareness Live** programme in English this year in order to widen the spiritual and social engagement with the friends, followers and supporters of Awareness Foundation. We are delighted and we thank God for His grace that the first season went extremely well and it was incredibly well received.

The guest speaker & the subject:

1. **The Revd Dr Nadim Nassar:** "The silence of God."
2. **Bishop Hosam Naoum:** "Lent in a time of Storm."
3. **Mother Nicola & Sister Benedict:** "Let us Dream."
4. **The Revd Dr Donald Fishburne:** "Hearing Jesus, and helping others see Jesus in troubled times."
5. **The Revd Alan Scotland:** "Finding Solace in communion with Jesus. "
6. **Bishop Michael Marshall:** "The way the world is."
7. **The Archbishop Angaelos:** "The paradox of joy and suffering."



You can see all the sessions either on our website: <https://www.awareness-foundation.com/2021/02/15/lent-programme> or Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/theawarenessfoundation1>



## Awareness Foundation Future programmes

### Pioneers

We are hugely excited to develop a brand new programme for teenagers in war zone, in Arabic, called **Pioneers**.

During our time in the Middle East teenagers kept complaining that they were old for Little Heroes and too young for Ambassador for peace. Finally, we are working very hard to finalise Pioneers programme specifically directed to ages between 13 and 17.

We also have started applying for funding to cover the cost of developing the programme as well as our pilot scheme and we would be very grateful if you could also consider supporting this vitally important initiative to help the most critical age in any society in war zone areas.



### Ambassadors for Peace London

Two years ago we started planning to run our **Ambassadors for Peace** programme in London but unfortunately the Pandemic forced us to stop. This year we decided to continue our preparation to run the programme in London as soon as the situation allows us. We are working with different churches, organisation and experts in order to prepare a suitable programme for the young people in the capital especially after this difficult time of lockdown and economic crises. We are excited to work again with the churches and youth organisations in order to provide a programme which could make a difference in the life of young people in London. We hope that this step in London would encourage us to take the programme to other places in UK and beyond.

### Volunteers

For the last three years, we have been offering a Work based learning (WBL) placement to students from the University of Chester. During the 150 hours WBL placement, we help students develop the essential skills that are required in the workplace to become a more competent future job applicant. The students, volunteers in return, work conscientiously to make a positive contribution to the Awareness Foundation.

At present, we have two students (Emily Arnold & Samuel Creed) creating a short film about the work of the Awareness Foundation. And we look forward to sharing it with our friends and supporters around the world once it is finalized.

Samuel, one of the two students, has written a heartfelt testimony blog about his experience working for the Awareness Foundation, and we are delighted to invite you all to read the blog on our website.

<https://www.awareness-foundation.com/2021/05/06/my-awareness-journey-by-samuel-frederick-creed>

## Why we need your support:

Please play your part in supporting our young **Ambassadors for Peace** in Syria & Iraq to enable them to develop their own creative peace-building activities and initiatives so that they promote peace and reconciliation in their diverse and wounded communities.



You can also support our ground-breaking children's programme, **Little Heroes**, in Syria which builds the children's sense of well-being, self-esteem, resilience, and emotional health.



Please consider to support brand new programme **Pioneers**. The programme aims to care for teenagers to take them on a journey through building up their mental and physical wellbeing, self-confidence, resilience, competence, identity and human relationships.



We are infinitely grateful for those who have been already blessing us with their gifts of care and love to keep these two programmes running.

## Thank you

We are endlessly grateful to all our friends around the world, without whom we would never be able to carry out our mission and help thousands of young people and children in the Near East. Your support and donations, large and small, help us to keep going so that we can continue the ministry that God entrusted to us. Please visit our website and make a donation to any programme you choose and let us together make a difference in the lives of the people who are under privileged.

## How to donate:

You can donate through our website: <https://www.awareness-foundation.com/donate>

Or send cheques, made payable to:

In UK: Awareness Foundation, 134C London Road, SM6 7HF.

In US: TFCC America, Steve Taber, Secretary

1170 Green Street, SAN FRANCISCO CA 94109-2013

We are a registered charity in the UK, (No: 1099873), we have the 501(c3) status in the US, and we are partners with CAF Canada so we can give donors tax receipts in all those countries if they choose to have them.