



awareness
FOUNDATION

Harvest Christmas 2021

Awareness Foundation: building peace through education www.awareness-foundation.com



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The Awareness Foundation is a registered charity in England & Wales (No 1099873)

Christmas Message

The Revd Dr Nadim Nassar

The Executive Director



When the shepherds received the good news from the angels, they ran to see the event that they heard about. They found the sign which was the divine baby. Both, the word and the event are from God who announced this good news to Mary and Zachariah before. We need to remember that when we go out to witness to that same word and event, it is God who is the origin of the good news not us.

We continue to listen to God and go out to proclaim the word and the event which have changed the world for more than two thousands years. The Word became flesh and the event are God's movement toward us because He loves us. He became one of us and we are all witnesses to that. We live the power of Christmas when we allow the word and the event of God, the Gospel, to change our own lives and empower us to become part of the family of God on earth. We can only see the fullness of God's event when bring the Christmas event and the event of Easter together. Both events reflect the work of the love of God in the life of humanity. The manger, the cross and the glorious resurrection of Emmanuel, God with us, are the event that makes us who we are, His children and the citizens of His kingdom. The magic of Christmas is the power of God's event and His love in us and in our work in the world.



Little Heroes

Christmas 2021

The pandemic is still causing a lot of suffering to the people in Syria. Therefore, we decided to give the children a gift that could draw a smile on their faces especially in this cold winter. Our gifts are a hat, a scarf and some stationery. We have already distributed 500 gifts to those who are in disparate need for help.



Awareness Foundation Live 2021

Christmas Programme

As a result of the latest visit of our Director for the Middle East, Huda Nassar, to Syria and her meetings with the head of different Christians denominations, we were able to renew our partnership with them. Huda met Bishop Athanasios Fahed from the Greek Orthodox Church, Monsignor Anthony Deeb and Fr George Maroun from the Maronite Catholic Church, Fr Fadi Azar from the Latin Catholic church and Revd Salam Hanna from the Presbyterian Protestant Church. All of those leaders welcomed the work with the Awareness Foundation. The Advent season of Awareness Live was one of the fruits of our ecumenical partnerships. We are grateful to all of them for their hospitality. We are delighted this year to host four different musical events in our new season of Awareness Live during Advent. The first event was led by the Revd Canon Fouad Dagher from the Episcopal Diocese in Jerusalem directly from the Holy Land. The second event was led by the choir of the Latin Catholic church in Lattakia Syria. The third event was led by a choir from the the Greek Orthodox Diocese in Lattakia Syria. The last event was led by three young musicians one of them is one of our Ambassadors for Peace in Syria. They ran the event from Damascus Syria. All the musical events reflected the spirit of Advent and Christmas through beautiful singing and meditation. We are extremely grateful to all of those wonderful musicians



and singers for the uplifting evenings they led. This season of Awareness Live would not have been possible without the hard work of our young coordinator for the Middle East Elza Nasra who brilliantly organised every one of them and looked after all the details to make this season a fantastic success. We have been able so far to reach throughout this Advent season thousands of people from all over the world using our different social media platforms.

Christmas Drinks

13 December 2021

A gathering of the Awareness Foundation Friends took place after almost two years to celebrate Christmas together, to say also thank you for their friendship and commitment and to share with them the achievements of the Foundation for the last two years since the beginning of the pandemic.



Ambassadors for Peace— Syria



Despite the difficult time globally due to the pandemic, the Director for the Middle East, Huda Nassar, was able to visit Syria to continue the work and be with the Ambassadors for Peace and little Heroes team there on the ground. Although it was not possible to run our programmes as usual, but she still could gather the Ambassadors for Peace for a full day programme in open air to assure them that they were still able to explore the gifts and talents and be positive influence in their communities even in the hardest of times.



We were glad to welcome Monsignor Anthony Deeb and the Revd Salam Hanna at the open day of the Ambassadors for peace. We were also blessed by the contribution of Dr Kherallah Atallah who gave a very interesting session on how to be influential as young Ambassadors for Peace wherever they go. The session was interactive and exciting for the young people who engaged with the speaker, and that created a good discussion.



The theme of the day was “I am influential” and the young people were able to express themselves in creative ways through different small projects in photography, writing, music, drama, and public speaking. The Ambassadors came from different part of Syria including Idlib, Qamishli and Aleppo.



Some of the previous Ambassadors who helped in leading the day gave the group some life testimonies about the influence that Ambassadors for Peace programme has had on them and their lives. It was moving indeed to hear those young leaders testifying to the work of the programme in their lives. That has given the new group a lot of encouragement, positive spirit and hope that they could make a difference, by the grace of God, in their lives as well as in the life of their broken communities.

Ambassadors for Peace Walk

29 October 2021



The walk was an initiative to support young people lives in war zones especially in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon and help them to get over the consequences of war and violence. On the 29th September, we took advantage of being able to gather outdoors in this critical time of pandemic to organize a sponsored walk to support our Ambassadors for Peace programme. The walk took place between Windsor Castle and Bagshot Park, the home of our Royal Patron. 21 people took part in the walk and all of them worked hard to promote the walk among their families, friends, and networks to raise the maximum funds they could.

We were deeply touched by the amazing care and help we received from the team of the Crown Estate office at Windsor Grate Park headed by Nicholas Day and also the police who secured the busy road for us to cross safely, and of course from the team of Bagshot Park especially our friend Annabelle Galletley.



It was indeed a fantastic opportunity to raise funds and at the same time promote the work of the Foundation to new groups of people through the participants. The team of the Crown Estate accompanied us the entire walk of 12 miles to protect and direct us.

We had such an exciting and great time walking through the park, the villages and the forest before we met Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex. She was incredibly generous in her hospitality and time. We met her at the end of the walk for tea at her home. HRH took the time to speak with all participants and thank them for everything they had done and encourage them to continue their friendship with the Foundation.

We would like to thank wholeheartedly Jamie Storer for his creative work of designing the lovely picture that was printed on our T-shirts we wore during the walk. We would like to thank also Iyad Kanaan and his company KNI Printing for donating the T-shirts and printing the picture on them.

Our gratitude goes also to all the participants who worked tirelessly to spread word to raise funds. We are blessed by every person who donated and supported our work. The total fund that we raised for the Ambassadors for Peace Walk 2021 was over £20,000.

Little Heroes



The team of Little Heroes programme in Syria led by Elza Nasra, our Middle East Coordinator, could not meet for months due the pandemic, but now they are working hard on preparing a brand new module which we hope to use in 2022. The team has been with Awareness Foundation in Syria for many years and has run many Little Heroes modules in Syria.

We feel enormously blessed to have a such committed, talented and highly creative team and we are so grateful to them for all their work they have done so far. We look forward to more exciting ideas and opportunities to change the lives of more children in need.

Awareness Dialogue

We continued working on our Awareness Dialogue programme this year and were able to release two dialogues. The first one was with Dr Ketty Sarouphim, Assistant Professor in Education Psychology at Lebanese American University in Beirut, who spoke about intelligence.



We released the second dialogue as an engagement with the international conference COP 26 in Glasgow with George Kanaan who is the head of the Arab Bankers Association in London. George was a graduate of one of the first classes which studied a climate change in New York.

Awareness Sunday

26 September 2021

On Sunday 26th September, we celebrated again this year Awareness Sunday. We are very grateful that we could celebrate it once more at St Mary Magdalene Wandsworth Common.



We really appreciate our link with St Mary Magdalene church, and we would like to express our gratitude for our friend the Revd Philippa Boardman for hosting us and making us feel at home at her parish. Our theme this year was **"Peace is a Culture"**. We also received many supportive video messages from our friends and supporters globally, from UK, USA, Canada, Italy, Hong Kong, Holy Land, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Many other churches and supporters also used a special Awareness Sunday prayer this year.

Why we need your support:

After more than a decade of conflict, war and the pandemic, children and young adults in Syria continue to suffer from traumas and mental and emotional damage. Help them save their future and donate to help them heal and become more resilient.

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 our 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.



Christmas Gift

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. At the end of this year we would like to encourage you to be generous and make a **Christmas gift** to Awareness Foundation to help us in this difficult time.

And may the Lord give us His peace and protection in this challenging time.

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.