



THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF BETHLEHEM

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

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1. New Staff & Volunteers

2004 was characterized by a dramatic increase in the number of employees of the International Centre of Bethlehem, mainly full time but also part-time, as new facilities opened and the guesthouse was renovated. The opening of the Il'Iiyeh restaurant at Dar Annadwa brought the largest number of new employees, but the Al-Kuz bar and café, the internet club and computer courses, the Bethlehem Media Center, and the Dar al-Kalima Wellness Center also welcomed new, highly qualified, young, dynamic staff members.

1. Randa Canawati – Finance
2. Ihab Musleh – IT
3. Walid Atallah – Buthour Production Unit
4. Hanna Musleh – Buthour Production Unit
5. Anton Stephan – Installation Art Project
6. Raghad Mukarker Faddoul – Installation Art Project
7. Shawky Awad – Guesthouse + Restaurant
8. Dirar Barham – Restaurant
9. Bassem Hazboun – Restaurant
10. Naoum Bassel – Restaurant
11. Sawsan Zeidan – Restaurant
12. Mike Abu Abbara – Restaurant
13. Elias Salman – Restaurant
14. Unwar Jabra – Restaurant
15. Shady Muhammad – Restaurant
16. Jihad Salman – Bar & Coffee Shop
17. Fadi Tanas – Reception
18. Ola Ghannam – Audiology
19. Nicola Hodali – Wellness
20. Rania Akroush – Wellness
21. Nida' Abu Laban – Wellness
22. Rev. Sandra Olewine – Came back after 10 months absence
23. Omar Tesdell – Volunteer in media center
24. Anette Klasing – Intercultural Encounter.

During this year, 3 of our employees were sent to pursue further training and degrees in fields which will be highly applicable in their work upon their return.

Rami Khader: to the US to get a BA degree in Wellness Management.

Jiries abu Ghannam: to Cyprus for an MA in Media and Communications.

Elias Haroun: to Denmark for a year in training in the Danish language as a guide.

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2. Art Program – Faten Nastas

Workshops

The primary goal of the art workshops each year is to offer advanced vocational training for young people, with emphasis on young women in the Bethlehem District. Through the training program the instructors strive to impart to the students the knowledge, the practical training, and the skill to run their own artwork production lines and eventually operate their own businesses. By empowering our students with the vocational training they desire, we hope they will build themselves a future full of creativity, productivity, and success.

The art program intentionally reaches out to members of marginalized groups of society: remote villages of the Bethlehem region, the 3 local refugee camps (Deheishe, Aida, and Azza), and local members of socially and economically underserved groups. The demand for places in the workshops exceeded our expectations, and we are delighted to report that a total of 88 participants were trained in our art workshops, including 64 women and 12 school art teachers who were seeking to improve their skills and learn new ones to share with their students.

Our student body, though comprised mainly of women over the age of 25, is diverse in background. We have several university students from the Open University who are looking for extra income, we have homemakers with children in school who need an income to help support their families, and we have a few women who are just coming for a hobby.

The advantage of our workshop program versus traditional vocational education is that it allows people with different educational and socioeconomic backgrounds to gather together to receive the training which will enable them to generate income as working artists with recognized vocational certification. The unique timetable of the workshop program, which features intensive workshops that meet for longer sessions over a period of a few weeks, allows busy people to receive the information and training they need in a relatively short period of time, freeing them from the long-term commitment of regular classes and allowing them to begin sooner to practice their techniques professionally.

In addition to the workshops themselves, several art clubs have developed which meet on a continuous basis and allow workshop alumni to work together and share ideas and new techniques. Also instituted this year is a semi-annual student art exhibition, which gives the students a goal to work toward and an opportunity to take pride in their efforts and the fruits thereof.

During the year 2004, we have made many achievements of which we are proud. Our arts and crafts library has been enlarged by over 200 books in both Arabic and English, which will allow our workshop instructors and participants to gather new ideas and techniques to enrich their artwork. The program administrators continue to innovatively plan the curriculum, incorporating more teachers, artists, lecturers, and topics. This year, they also attended an important art education symposium, “Higher Art Education in Palestine”, which was initiated by the National Academy of Fine Art in Oslo and the Palestinian Association for Contemporary Art in Ramallah, and investigated the need for an art academy in Palestine and how to go about its creation and development.

It is clear from the large number of beneficiaries that the ICB art program is responding to a very crucial need in the community for vocational training and artist cooperation. Therefore, the program administrators will continue steadfastly to support existing workshops and develop the curriculum in order to suit the needs of the growing artist community of Bethlehem.

Basic and advanced courses in the following arts & crafts fields were offered in 2004:



1. Glass Fusing	2. Mosaic Art	3. Paper Cut Art
4. Teachers' Training	5&6. Stole Design	7. Ceramics
8. Olive Paper Making	9. Engraving & Printing	10&11. Drawing & Painting

1. Glassworking (beginners, 6F/2M, 16 February – 17 March)

Covered glass fusing and stained glass making.

Taught by four practicing artists who got their training at our Academy last year.

2. Mosaic (beginners, 2F/7M, 26 March – 30 April)

Covered direct and indirect techniques of implementing stones in a mosaic.

Taught by two practicing artists who got their training at our Academy last year with the Italian artist Carolina Zanelli.

3. Chinese Paper Cut Technique (intensive workshop, 7W, 29 March – 01 April)

Covered basics of Chinese paper-cut art technique.

Supervised by Chinese artist Ms. Fan Pu, who was exhibiting her own artwork at the al-Kahf gallery.

4. Crafts Training Course (continuing ed., 7 school teachers from 5 schools, 25 March – 22 April)
Covered ceramics, glass, and wax art. (areas included in the mandatory art curriculum of the Palestinian Ministry of Education, but teachers not trained or qualified to teach them)
Supervised by four artisans who work at the ICB's workshop complex.
5. Stole Design and Production I (beginners, 3F, Spring 2004)
Covered basics of stole design and production, including embroidery and fabric finishing.
Supervised by Inger Jonasson (Church of Sweden).
6. Stole Design and Production II (beginners/intermediate, 7F, September 2004 – present)
Continued improving skills of women in beginning course, while new women learned techniques.
Continues to meet as a club every Tuesday from 2-4pm.
Supervised by Ms. Inger Jonasson (Church of Sweden).
7. Ceramics (beginners, 4F/1M completed course, 24 July – 12 August)
Covered hand shaping techniques, coloring, glazing and firing.
Taught by local artist Ms. Samaher Romi.
8. Olive Paper Making (beginners, 16F/3M, 14 – 17 October)
Covered basics of papermaking from olive wood pulp.
Supervised by two Japanese experts, Ms. Kazuko Tajima and Ms. Makiko Nakano, as part of the Olive Project in conjunction with the ICB.
9. Engraving & Printing (beginners, 8F/5M, 3 days)
Covered basics of producing engravings and making prints from them.
Supervised by Belgian artist Professor Maurice Pasternak of the Art Academy in Brussels, who was exhibiting work at the al-Kahf Gallery. In collaboration with the Khalil Sakakini Cultural Centre in Ramallah .
10. Drawing & Painting I (beginners age 6-12, 11 students, January – present)
Supervised by Bethlehem artist Mr. Rimaz al-Araj until 16 April, then subsequently Mr. Johnny Andonia, an outstanding student from the adult drawing and painting class.
11. Drawing & Painting II (advanced students age 12-16, 7 students, January – present)
Supervised by Bethlehem artist Mr. Rimaz al-Araj until 16 April, then subsequently Ms. Inger Jonasson of the ICB. Part of the Dar al-Kalima Academy.
12. Drawing & Painting III (advanced, 15 adults, May – present)
Continuous course/club.
Initiated and supervised by Ms. Inger Jonasson. Oil painting instruction by Mr. Munther Jawabre during summer session.

Ms. Jonasson added a monthly field trip to the curriculum for all the Drawing & Painting groups, which dramatically enriched the experience of the students.

For demographic statistics on the workshop participants for 2004, please see [Appendix A](#) below.

Defacing the Wall (special project, 3 Mexican muralists et al., 19 October – 11 November)

One of the biggest and most visible projects for the ICB art program in 2004 was “Defacing the Wall”, a creative and non-violent protest against the wall the Israelis are building around Bethlehem and throughout Palestine. Three Mexican muralists, Alberto Aragon Reyes, Gustavo Chavez Pavon, and Erasto Molina Urbina were invited to come to Palestine and to work in collaboration with local artists, art students, and internationals from Denmark, Sweden, Germany, USA, England, Holland, Spain and New Zealand. The paintings are very expressive and reflect the suffering, the pain, and the wounds that afflict oppressed people worldwide.

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Al-Kahf Gallery

The al-Kahf Gallery at Dar Annadwa solicits art exhibitions from international artists and Palestinian artists who are living in the Diaspora. All in all, the al-Kahf Gallery, the Cave areas, and the Dar Annadwa lobby hosted 15 exhibitions in 2004 and had at least 1700 visitors. The local art students also had their Spring Exhibition in the Gallery, which was very popular and gave great encouragement to the students to continue their work.

A few highlights of the past year include:

- “Jesus’ Life and His Teachings” by Chinese artist Fan Pu. Our intentions in inviting Fan Pu were threefold: to involve our gallery in the international Christian art network, to display in our gallery the unfamiliar traditional Chinese method used in this case to portray Christian belief in art, and to enrich our curriculum with instruction in a truly unique technique. The artist gave a special intensive workshop in paper cutting to seven female art students, and also took time to visit with Palestinian Christian artist Zaki Baboun. Around 150 people came to see her Bethlehem exhibition in March and April, and many more visited the exhibition hosted by our partner the Swedish Theological Institute in Jerusalem.
- “Doors of Bethlehem” by Palestinian artist Hind el-Ama, who is currently living in Sweden. Around 110 people came to the opening of her exhibition, which was the most popular exhibition of the year. Her oil paintings of 19 Bethlehem doors charmed the gallery audience with their unique presentation of familiar places.
- “Contemporary Native American Art,” an intensive one-day conference, was held in October and supervised by 7 artists from the American “Artnauts” group, who were here to celebrate the opening of a group exhibition in the gallery. The 7 artists, including well-known artists George Rivera, Garrison Roots, and Sama Alshaibi, who is of Palestinian descent, are art professors and teachers in different American universities, and have most graciously expressed interest in being visiting lecturers at our Academy.

We at the Gallery have noticed a general increase in the local community’s interest in art, which we hope is due, in part, to our efforts to support and publicize the work of artists living in and around Bethlehem. As more people notice the artwork on display in the Gift Shop and the Gallery, we think participation in our workshops has increased, and as the artists grow in confidence their expressive abilities also increase. We are very pleased with the level of emotional and spiritual expression in the artwork produced and displayed in Dar Annadwa.

One unique obstacle for our Gallery is that we seem to be on the “wrong” side of the Wall. Sometimes checkpoints are closed “for security reasons” or people are afraid to journey far from home, making the planning of exhibitions difficult and lowering the number of visitors. Therefore, we hope that by cooperating with institutes in Jerusalem and Ramallah we can serve the larger community without necessarily making them come to us in Bethlehem.



2004 Exhibitions:

*a * indicates a Palestinian living in Diaspora in that country*

1. Textures of Palestine Samia Halaby / New York* 20/12/2003 - 28/1/2004	2. End of Days Steve Sabella / Jerusalem 31/1/2004 - 25/2/2004	3. Fasateen Raeda Adon / Israel 28/2/2004 - 25/3/2004
4. Panorama of Jesus life Fan Pu / China 25/3/2004 - 19/4/2004	5. Sincerely Barbara Barbara Guttman / Hungary 2/4/2004 - 17/5/2004	6. In Other Words Taysir Batniji / France* 20/5/2004 - 14/6/2004
7. Internal Power Mary Tuma / USA* 17/6/2004 - 12/7/2004	8. Serpentine Horizon Hannen Kendalaft / Palestinian August 2005	9. Gaza & Peace activists Larissa Sansour / Denmark* 12/8/2004 - 6/9/2004
10. Recent Installations Alexandra Handal / Dominican Rep.* 11/9/2004 - 4/10/2004	11. Common Wounds Artnauts group / USA 7/10/2004 - 31/10/04	12. Charming & Alarming Katja Stienen / Holland 4/11/2004 - 28/11/2004
13. Laying Figures Maurice Pasternak / Belgium 2/12/2004 - 21 /12/2004	14. Last Dance Munther Jawabre / Ramallah 23/12/2004 - 17/1/2005	15. Doors of Bethlehem Hind El Ama / Sweden* 22/12/2004 - 17/1/2005

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Al-Kahf Gift Shop – Mazen Odeh & Lara Nassar

The international marketing department promotes the sale of hand-made products from the workshops at the International Center of Bethlehem (ICB) by displaying the handicrafts in the ICB's al-Kahf gift shop, as well as on our website, accessible through www.annadwa.org. Despite the continued difficulties posed by the Israeli Occupation, the marketing department continued its work in 2004 under the motto: “**Destruction May Be, Continuity Shall Be.**”

2004 was a fruitful year for sales and online ordering of al-Kahf art and craft work, in comparison to the past 2-3 years. In 2004, we received 118 international orders, mostly between the months of August and December. 80% of the orders were for stained glass goods (stars, crosses, trees, and our most popular item the angels made by Helva, a local artist), and the remaining 20% of orders were for olive wood and ceramic goods. Virtually all orders were shipped on time (at an average of 4-5 orders per week during the busy season) and customer satisfaction rates are high.

As in previous years, the international marketing department participated in 3 events and bazaars both inside Bethlehem and outside:

- Olive Harvest festival, The Peace Center, Bethlehem
- Christmas Market, The Peace Center, Bethlehem
- Arab-International Forum on Rehabilitation and Development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Beirut, Lebanon

In line with the ICB's mission to mobilize and equip community members with skills they can apply to earn their livelihood, the marketing department has endeavored to assist local artists by displaying, selling, and promoting their artwork. Seasonal or temporary work is commissioned by the gift shop (i.e. artists are asked to produce a certain number of olive wood or stained glass pieces), and this “temporary job creation” has helped at least 2 or 3 artists to gain their living from art production. Hopefully this system can continue and increasingly benefit more artists.

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3. Ad-Dar Events – Carol Michel

The Ad-Dar Cultural and Conference Center is truly an exceptional place in the West Bank. Nowhere else can one find such a variety of concerts, conferences, plays, cultural and community events, film screenings, and children's events happening in one location.

A complete listing of Ad-Dar events is available below in [Appendix B](#).

Event planning at Ad-Dar caters mainly to younger audiences, with many events for children, teenagers, and young adults. Performances by Palestinian artists are a priority at Ad-Dar, as they show audience members that by embracing their creativity and working hard they too can realize their goals. Also, as many Palestinians are unable to travel outside their hometowns, performances by international groups provide cross-cultural enrichment to both the performers and their audience. Our more mature audiences enjoy documentary and film screenings, lectures, classical music concerts, and "meet the artist" evenings.

Some highlights for 2004 include a rap concert by Palestinian group DAM, and the Bach Christmas Oratorio.

Rap Concert by DAM Group

DAM is a group of young rap artists, Palestinian citizens of Israel, creating and performing together since 1998. All three members of the group were born and grew up in the slums of Lod, an Israeli town that mixes Muslims, Christians and Jews. DAM's music is a unique fusion of East and West, featuring Arabic singing skilfully arranged to rap beats. Their songs and lyrics are influenced by the effects of the continuing Israeli/Palestinian conflict and the struggle for equality of Arab-Israeli citizens. Through their music, DAM identify with the suffering of their Palestinian siblings, fighting against discrimination and dealing with the issues of crime, drugs and women's rights in Arab society.

The Bach Christmas Oratorio

As part of its groundbreaking Palestine Bach Festival 2004, the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (ESNCM) presented a joint performance of sections of Bach's magnificent Christmas Oratorio, together with the seasonal cantata *Schwingt Freudig Euch Empor*. Conducted by the renowned British choirmaster Tim Brown, the concert represented a uniquely ambitious collaboration between Palestinian and European classical musicians. The Ramallah-based Jerusalem Chorus and a number of ESNCM instrumentalists joined forces with professional European singers and orchestra players, including the Choir of London. The performance they gave was inspiring – filled with the spirit of Christmas in Bethlehem and the spirit of international solidarity for peace in Palestine.

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4. Media Center

Buthour Production Unit – Anton Stephan, Hanna Musleh, Walid Atallah

In 2004 the Buthour Production Unit of the Bethlehem Media Center produced a series of televised debates, collectively called “Shu Ra’yak?”, which in English means “What is your opinion?”. The debate shows dealt with issues crucial to the Palestinian people, such as education, health, elections, unemployment, and the Separation Wall.

The debates were conducted in the Ad-Dar Hall at the International Center of Bethlehem, filmed on three cameras with high-quality audio and visual equipment, and broadcast on the Ma’an network via ten local Palestinian TV stations to an audience of around 2 million people throughout Palestine.

The topics of the debates were carefully selected to reflect recent issues in the Palestinian discourse. Government officials, community leaders and NGO representatives debated in front of live audiences of up to 100 people, who were able to give their opinions and engage with the guest speakers.

Four episodes were taped between May and December, 2004:

- “Unemployment”: 01 May 2004, 60 minutes. Investigated the causes and effects of the high unemployment rate (60%) in Bethlehem, especially with respect to the Wall and road closures, the absence of tourists, and economic despair compounded by the increasing prices of goods and utilities in the area.
- “Annexation Wall...To Where?": 29 May 2004, 60 minutes. Discussed the effects and future implications of the Wall, and the closure, separation, and confiscation of Palestinian land.
- “People with Special Needs: the Need of Integration”: 29 June 2004, 120 minutes. Explored difficulties faced by those with mental and physical disabilities, with respect to functioning as members of the community, and the steps being taken to support the disabled and assist integration efforts.
- “Presidential Election”: 11 December 2004, 120 minutes. Representatives from political factions of various orientations sat together and discussed issues important in the upcoming election. Groups represented included Fateh, the People’s Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the People’s Party, and Hamas.

Services to Journalists and Media Personnel

As part of its programs, the Bethlehem Media Center offered a number of services to international, regional and local journalists and media personnel. Most of the services focused on preparing itineraries, providing information, arranging for interviews, and using facilities.

Some of the major clients included:

- BBC (England)
- Christian Monitor (US)
- National Public Radio (US)
- the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- WDR German Radio and TV
- Publik-Forum (Germany)

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IT/Communications Courses – Tamara Kharroub



Computer Training for Local Employees of MEATRC (Middle East Association of Training and Retreat Centers)

- 20 hours
- 16 participants, mostly women professionals
- MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint; basic web design; internet usage and applications; network and security; email usage

Women Online

- 30 hours
- 14 female participants, mostly home makers
- Basic computer skills, including email/internet usage and basic applications

Dar al-Kalima Summer Academy

- 15 hours
- 270 children, ages 6-16
- Web design, internet applications, graphic design, and MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

Religion Educators Workshops

- 15 religious educators
- Utilizing the internet to find information and facilitate teaching religion in schools

MS Office

- 20 hours
- 8 professionals
- Intermediate and advanced training in MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint

Web Design Course

- 30 hours
- 8 participants, individuals and representatives of organizations
- Course targeted at professionals and the unemployed to teach web design, to create better job opportunities and to facilitate more effective communication and promotion of programs and services

Training for ICB staff

- 15 ICB staff members
- Assessment of computer skills and training needs of the ICB staff, with appropriate weekly training sessions thereafter

Cisco IT Essentials I: PC Hardware and Software

- 80 hours
- 25 participants, including 8 women
- Hands-on experience, including building, configuring and maintaining personal computers as well as the set-up and configuration of local area networks. Each participant graduated with a certificate from CISCO and valuable experience for the workplace. This program also prepared students to take the A+ certification.

Graphic Design

- 30 hours
- 5 women, unemployed
- Digital graphic design concepts and techniques using Adobe PhotoShop, Adobe Illustrator, and Adobe InDesign.

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Media Website – Faith Rowold & Anton Stephan

The Bethlehem Media Center website, www.bethlehemmedia.net, serves the local and international communities with news and reports from Bethlehem and the surrounding areas, as well as larger Palestine.

The website is maintained by the Bethlehem Media Center staff, by either Omar Tesdell or Anton Stephan. Articles are commissioned by ICB administrators, submitted by independent writers, or gleaned from outside news sources, and posted on the website for all to access. The articles posted try to reflect the human side of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and to give accurate information about the stories that receive attention in international media with regards to the Occupation, the Wall, and clashes between Israelis and Palestinians.

The feature article archive on the website reads like a history of the effects of the occupation and Intifada on Bethlehem and the West Bank from 2003 to the present, but also includes uplifting stories on the activities of artists, youth groups, and international visitors. Also included in the archives are publications from international humanitarian organizations on the situation in the Palestinian Territories, official church and synod documents and reports, and articles from internationally renowned news sources such as Ha'aretz (Israel), The Guardian (UK), and the Christian Science Monitor (US).

Highlights include:

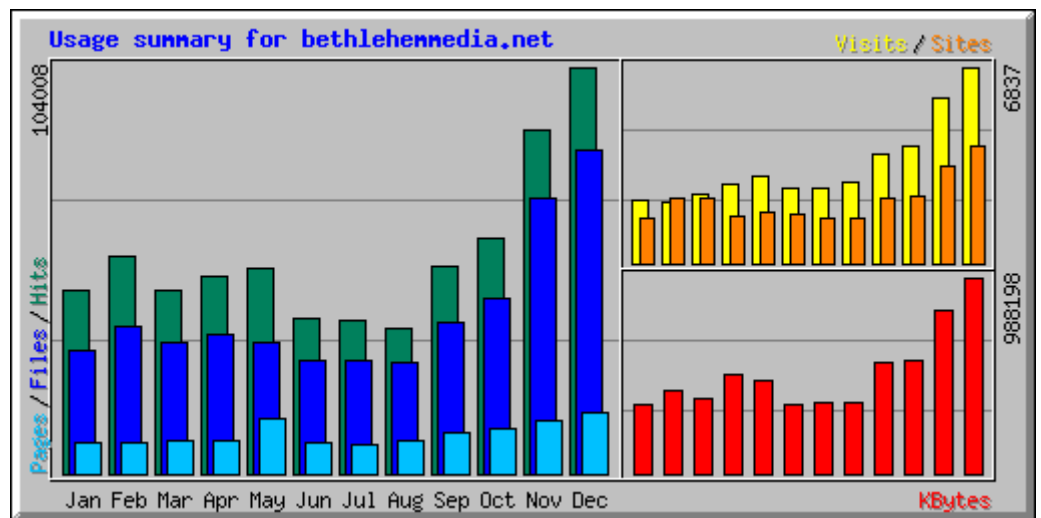
- Stories on the ARK cross-cultural program for youth, describing both the enriching experiences the Palestinian, American, and Guatemalan youth shared, as well as the harrowing journey the Palestinian delegation faced trying to get to Guatemala
 - “Teenagers’ Hands and Tears Across the Sea: A Palestinian Odyssey” (Frank Wright, 03 Jan 2004)
 - “Going to Guatemala: God’s Curse?” (Frank Wright, 03 Jan 2004)
- Updates from local and international perspectives on the continuing land confiscations and construction of the Wall around Bethlehem, and the economic, environmental, and human rights implications thereof
 - “In the Shadow of Sharon’s Wall” (Marouf Zahran, The Guardian, 23 Feb 2004)
 - “Danish Church Delegation Shocked by Deteriorating Situation on the Ground During a Visit to Israel/Palestine” (06 Apr 2004)
 - “Visa Restrictions Threaten Mission Work in Jerusalem” (Matthew Davies, 14 May 2004)
 - “Wall Annexes Rachel’s Tomb, Imprisons Palestinian Families” (Lily Galili, Haáretz, 11 July 2004)
 - “Maher Hamamdeh’s U-Shaped Prison” (Omar Tesdell, 30 Aug 2004)
- Articles on the Presbyterian Church’s divestment campaign and taking an official stance in support of Palestinians, with follow-up reports on the parallel actions of other church bodies
 - “Jewish Council Cuts Ties with Church of Sweden After Products’ Boycott” (Lars Grip, 22 May 2004)
 - “The Reformed Church in America Takes Stance Against Christian Zionism” (24 June 2004)
 - “Presbyterians Divest Themselves from Israel” (Nathan Guttman, Ha’aretz, 22 July 2004)
 - “Anglican Group Calls for Israel Sanctions” (Chris McGreal, 24 Sept 2004)
 - “PC(USA) Receives Arson Threat” (Jerry L. Van Marter, 12 Nov 2004)
 - “US Churches Take Stand Against Israeli Occupation” (Barbara Ferguson, 20 Nov 2004)

- Accounts of non-violent protests and demonstrations throughout the West Bank
 - “Gandhi’s Grandson to Kick Off Unarmed Palestinian Campaign” (Amira Hass, Ha’aretz, 13 Aug 2004)
 - “Pot and Pan Revolution” (Omar Tesdell, 30 Aug 2004)
 - “EAPPI Demonstrates Over Madonna’s Visit to Rachel’s Tomb” (Larry Fata, 15 Sept 2004)

Also included on the website is an events calendar for activities at the ICB, various official documents and reports, a glossary of important terms relating to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and a section called “Diaries from Palestine,” which includes first-hand accounts from people living in Bethlehem under the Occupation.

Usage statistics are as follows:

	Daily Average Visits	Monthly Total Visits
Jan 2004	71	2227
Feb 2004	72	2102
Mar 2004	77	2407
Apr 2004	90	2721
May 2004	98	3045
Jun 2004	87	2633
Jul 2004	83	2597
Aug 2004	91	2851
Sep 2004	125	3770
Oct 2004	132	4108
Nov 2004	191	5731
Dec 2004	244	6837
Total		41029



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5. Authentic Tourism – Rana Khoury

The Authentic Tourism program operating at Dar Annadwa serves a dual purpose: training local guides and guiding visitors on tours of historical and living Holy Land. The popularity of the program among international travellers has grown in the past year, as the number of visiting groups who came to the ICB for an hour, a day, or a whole 10- to 12-day program increased dramatically. Most remarkable this year was the variety of the groups participating in the Authentic Tourism programs, in terms of their origin and composition, as well as the uniqueness of their programs, customized according to the type of the group.

Group programs always include the essence of Authentic Tourism, which is:

- Visiting the ancient stones, while listening to authentic personal narratives.
- Engaging in the spiritual life in present Palestine.
- Experiencing living cultures.
- Witnessing local Christian ministries of healing and hope.
- Joining in servant opportunities of work and prayer.
- Exploring the original context of the Bible.
- Supporting the economic development in Palestine.

To show the diversity of groups who employ our services, here is a sample list:

1. The Tri-Faith Women's Group of 15 women from Minnesota, USA participated in our Authentic Tourism Program for 9 days, from March 14 – 22, 2004.
2. A 14-person volunteer group under the title "Partners in Mission Workgroup" from Virginia, USA participated in a 2 week volunteer work program, from May 1 – 17, 2004. One week was spent at the Nazareth Village in Nazareth and one week here at the Dar al-Kalima grounds.
3. The New England Synod Group of 13 persons came to Bethlehem, where they participated in a 2 day program from May 22-23, 2004.
4. A 13-day Seminar entitled "Theology and Human Rights in the Palestinian Context" for the Reformed Churches of Bern, Switzerland was held from May 17 – 29, 2004, in which 12 persons participated.
5. A Church of Scotland Group of 8 persons participated in a 2 day program on Sept. 24 – 25, 2004.
6. A 20-person group from the Teologisk Paedagogisk Center in Denmark participated from October 2-6, 2004.
7. The Ev. Arbeitsstelle Erwachsenenbildung Pfalz group of 26 people from Germany participated in a one-day Bethlehem program on October 20, 2004.
8. A 7-person delegation from the United Reform Church in the UK participated in a 3-day program from October 17 – 19, 2004.
9. A Lutheran Hour Ministries group of 12 people participated in a servant event here at ICB in an 8-day program from Nov. 18 – 25, 2004.

The main challenge to tourism in Palestine in general and specifically for our program is the political climate, and countering the false propoganda that Bethlehem and other Palestinian areas are not safe. Once groups are in Bethlehem and get a sense for the place and the people, they feel totally at home and very safe.

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6. ARK/Intercultural Encounters

ARK: Global Journeys to Harbors of Hope for Young People is a project that brings together youth from Palestine, Guatemala, and the USA for intensive sessions of community formation, bridge building, and cultural exchange.

The first convention of ARK was held in Guatemala in 2003, and the second convention was held in August, 2004, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. 60 youth, along with group leaders and translators, arrived in Minneapolis (some Palestinian members after being refused passage through Ben Gurion and having to go through Amman, Jordan on the way to the US, and some being refused passage in Chicago on the way back!) to begin a 2-week journey together on a road of peace, understanding, and growth.

On August 17, 2004, the ARK Charter of Peace was drawn up by a representative group of ARK partners and posted on one of the TIME IS NOW murals that captured the theme and topics of ARK II.

The Charter of Peace reads as follows:

“We, the participants of ARK, people from San Lucas Toliman, Guatemala, Minnesota, USA, and Bethlehem, Palestine, unite to build a better world. This is a world full of hope, tolerance, solidarity, and understanding, equality, and love for all. We believe in respecting each person’s culture, languages, traditions, religions, feelings, and thoughts. In order to create peace, we need to listen, share, and help each other. Living in peace, we will have a different world filled with love and joy.”

ARK participants made the following commitments as they returned to their homes, families, schools and communities:

- To listen to people
- To speak to people of peace and love rather than greed
- To make our enemies our friends
- To mend broken relationships in our lives, families, schools and communities
- To speak out against violence of all kinds
- To understand that a little gesture of kindness and understanding can help bring about change
- To never lose hope that we can build a better world through our actions and attitudes
- To continue to understand the full meaning of peace and to let this understanding determine our actions
- To remember that even if the place we go back to has not changed, we have changed and will work to make changes
- To build communities of peace where we live
- To be a community builder
- To learn the facts, and then speak
- To include people, since no one should be left out
- To speak out against racism
- To walk our talk
- To continue “going inside” and becoming the kind of person that can make a difference in the world
- To persevere and form unity with others in working for peace, tolerance, and understanding
- To pray for our ARK family that we are faithful to our commitments

Personal Reflections: Sami Abu Ghazaleh

During our dinner [in Minneapolis] the Palestinian participants shared with others in eating a Chinese meal, some with chopsticks. In these moments [it was] challenging for me to keep an eye on our team members and make sure that the fact that they were exhausted from the long hours of travel did not spoil the communication with the others, and especially the generous invitation of the restaurant owners who offered the food as a gift to the project. I stressed that mixing with other kids from other groups should be [active] from the very beginning.

The motto that Judy taught us in Guatemala and strengthened in Minnesota relating to the concept of the one family is: “It is not about me; it’s about us.”

In this sense [I could] realize that the relationship between one another is not limited to 2 intimate friends or one couple but extends to reach all of the kids and their leaders, who in many cases can be considered like their mummies and daddies, or among the American leaders who even can be considered to some as grandmas and grandpas!

From this point of view ARK II experience was rich in its diversity from culture, religion, denomination and gender, age and further more to language and education.

Hence, our goal is to build a better world; the majority of participants worked hard to build bridges among one another and worked hard to destroy the different barriers that separate us. [Like the theme of ARK II says,] the “time is now” to mend our broken world. So we worked together, exchanged ideas, conversations, drew the signs of peace, and celebrated together in and different ways the dream of every person and the dream of every nation towards living in peace and enjoying justice.

With great sincerity and respect, the sacred circle led by a Native American, Don, has given a major impulse for the group, a new dynamic and a new formation. We have become a new born family whose members are entitled to respect one another’s own culture and beliefs.

All those taking part in this sacred circle have become more committed than ever, caring for one another and doing their best to live a new life full of happiness and joy.

Among the various activities in ARK Minnesota were protesting on the bridge and carrying signs calling on an end to the WAR in Iraq, visiting the families of the Minnesota group members, and worshipping together on Sunday Service, in addition to the flow of the day which is usually composed of the training workshops preparing future leaders, and evenings of presentations on culture and other themes.

Sharing stories was one of the most important and sensitive moments. Palestinians shared the stories of Israeli invasions and destructions through pictures, and Guatemalans shared their stories and their culture through folkloric dancing in Guatemalan dress.

The compassion of the participants and of feeling with each other has also been a sign of solidarity and unity to work together for peace.

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7. Bright Stars & Dar al-Kalima Summer Academy – Tamara Kharroub

“Our aim is that our children, who admire stars, will dare to look up, to dream, to have goals to strive for, to work out their traumas and develop a new sense of community, beauty, and faith” - Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb

Children in Palestine constitute over 50% of the population. In an environment of violence, poverty, instability, and oppression, they have increasingly become children at risk. The Palestinian children are in urgent need for spaces and programs to nourish their souls, encourage their positive participation in society, and develop their abilities and talents.

The ICB developed the Bright Stars program with a creative, holistic approach and a large variety of techniques to motivate and stretch the children’s imaginations and possibilities.

The Bright Stars program and Summer Academy are open to all children in the Bethlehem area – boys and girls, Christians and Muslims, from ages 6-16. Our students come from Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, the refugee camps, and surrounding villages.

Our programming is designed to bring out the best in our kids by prioritizing self-based learning, leadership skills, active participation, self-expression, goal-oriented planning, and artistic, creative, aesthetic, and physical personal development.

Bright Stars Clubs 2004

Children gather weekly in different clubs according to their talents and gifts, receiving training and instruction from local professionals and experts to help them develop their abilities. Within each club, participants are divided into smaller groups based on their skill level, and they progress continuously with their group, learning and growing together throughout the year. Occasionally, international artists and experts are invited to give individual classes in cooperation with the local teachers, and to contribute with their different backgrounds and insights.

Clubs and participants for the 2004 Bright Stars program are as follows:


Club	Participants	
Swimming	80	
Karate	40	
Drawing & Painting	20	
Ballet	40	
Music Clubs	80	
Internet	600	
Installation Art	150	

200 students of the Dar al-Kalima school also participate in the school's Extracurricular Program (an enrichment program similar to the Bright Stars program, but available as part of the school day to Dar al-Kalima students) in the areas of mosaic and glass art, bead-making, story-writing, swimming, karate, bell choir, dabke, and drawing and painting.

Bright Stars Summer Academy 2004

The Bright Stars Summer Academy 2004 enlivened the month of July with activities and learning for 300 Palestinian children, setting the new high mark for program participation. 30 experts and professionals leading 26 clubs aided and encouraged the children in developing their talents, identities, and self-confidence.

Club offerings this year expanded to include:

<p>Sports Swimming, Karate, Basketball, Volleyball, Table Tennis, and Sports Games</p> <p>Communications Media, Graphic Design, Web Design, and MS Office</p> <p>Arts & Crafts Glass Fusing, Mosaic, Ceramics, Bead-making, Drawing & Painting, Watercolor, Caricature Drawing, and Hand Works</p> <p>Performing Arts Dabke (Folk Dance), Modern Dance, Theatre & Drama, Puppet Theatre, Musical Instruments, and Rap</p> <p>Other Creative Writing and Chess</p>	
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The capstone event on July 29th showcased what the children learned and produced during their time at the Summer Academy, giving them the chance to take pride in their work. This celebration consisted of arts & crafts exhibitions, digital presentations by the media and computer students, and stage performances including music, theatre, modern and folk dance, and a puppet show. In addition, the karate club held its belt graduation examinations and successful students were presented with their green belts.

Bright Stars Activities 2004

Different activities take place throughout the year, offering to all Palestinian children the opportunities for training and learning, social interaction, and fun with their peers.

Highlights from the activities in 2004 include:

1. Easter Event: Face-painting and egg-coloring activities with clowns, music, and dancing. 100 children participated.



2. Rap Workshop & Concert: This exceptional activity with Palestinian rap group “DAM” was the first of its kind in the Bethlehem area. The band members worked with 30 talented Bright Stars to practice rap music, teaching everything from writing lyrics to rapping in front of an audience in a concert. More than 300 youngsters attended and enjoyed the concert.

3. Sports Gala: 250 children gathered to play sports and engage in fun games and competitions.



4. Music workshop with the French multicultural music group “Kamandjati”: 200 Bright Stars participated.



5. Internet Room: A new computer lab has been established this year and equipped with 15 computer terminals, providing access to the newest hardware, various software programs, and fast internet connection. The computer lab has been accessed by the Bright Stars for research, training, and general Internet and email use.

6. Leadership Training: In November 2004, a new training program started for the teachers and leaders of the Bright Stars program. The training encourages building and developing the leadership capacities and communication skills which are needed for healthy and constructive leading of children. 30 young leaders participated in this training program. See the [Youth Club & Youth Leadership Training](#) report for more information.



7. Christmas Event: The Christmas event on December 18th of 2004 was one of the largest activities of the year, with a group of 550 participating Bright Stars, along with proud parents and relatives. The program consisted of performances by the Bright Stars in the Dabke, Music, and Karate clubs, in addition to an exhibition of the art works of the Drawing & Painting club. The event concluded with a visit from Santa Claus, with balloons, flashing lights, Christmas music and presents. Each Bright Star received as a gift an athletic training suit made locally in Bethlehem, supporting the Bright Stars and their families in providing equipment for physical exercise. The event was the first gathering of its kind in the Bethlehem Area to include this large a number of children from diverse socio-economic, geographic, and religious backgrounds within the Palestinian community.



8. Youth Exchange: Youth exchange programs empower the youngsters to share, cooperate, and partner in forming a better world of tolerance, understanding, and solidarity. “ARK; Art Resources for Kids,” a south-to-south cooperation between Bright Stars and youngsters from Guatemala and minorities in the USA, took place in the USA. “Art & Environment” is a European-Mediterranean youth exchange that took place in Portugal involving leaders of the Bright Stars and youngsters from France, Turkey, and Portugal.



9. Scholarships: Five scholarships have been awarded this year to graduate Bright Stars who are attending university, hoping that they will return to work at the International Center of Bethlehem as leaders in the Bright Stars program.

Other activities included small trips, concerts, theatre shows, films, dancing, and workshops.

The Bright Stars activities and Summer Academy were advertised on local television channels and radio stations, and were regularly covered in the local newspaper "Al-Quds". We are delighted that such media coverage has increased the popularity and outreach of our programs, and hope that this trend will continue.

Our goals for 2005 include increasing outreach to children in towns, villages, and refugee camps around the Bethlehem area, and increasing the number of clubs and activities offered in response to growing demand. We also intend to set up and furnish a Youth Room to act as a meeting space for the Bright Stars for informal gatherings, discussions, meetings, small workshops, multimedia activities, and games.

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8. Youth Club & Youth Leadership Training – Anette Klasing

“When youth are empowered, they can become full participants in the construction and/or reconstruction of our world.”

In Palestine about 60 % of the population are children and young people under 25 years of age. The majority of these youth are no strangers to difficult life-circumstances, violence and frustration, but beyond this they are human beings with rich resources and abilities. A democratic and progressive future for Palestine depends on society learning to treat young people as an important peer group, involving them in the discussions and decisions which influence how society is run.

Especially in the context of the Occupation, many youth feel they are powerless and suspect that adults also perceive them as powerless. Yet when adults provide the space, guidance, and collaboration that youth need in order to feel capable and worth listening to, young people can develop in affirmative and empowering ways.

To meet this need, a Youth-Leadership Training Program was developed and implemented at Dar Annadwa to offer skills and training to the young adults who lead and guide groups of youth and children. Specifically, the aspects of ‘self-empowerment’, ‘participation’, ‘project-development’, ‘diversity’ and ‘conflict-management’ are emphasized.

The ‘leadership-training’ course includes 15 sessions during which these 10 topics are explored:

- Definitions of democracy and participation
- Communication skills
- Leadership-styles and skills
- Teambuilding and teamwork
- Diversity: to be different *and* to be equal
- ‘Learning by doing?’ – How to learn
- Dealing with difficult situations and conflicts
- Project management
- The concept of the ‘Future Workshop’
- Gatherings and group sessions

The first Training Program started in November 2004 with 15 participants (young adults of 22-28 years) and will end in May 2005. 13 participants will receive their certificates.

The goals of the training courses are to encourage young people to become active members in their community and in Dar Annadwa, and to equip them with the skills they need in order to effectively lead groups, cope with difficult situations, and interact with people of diverse identities.

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9. Health & Wellness Center – Nuha Khoury

Audiology

By the end of 2004, the Dar al-Kalima Audiology Department will have been in operation for 17 months. Considering the brevity of this period of time, the department has gained quite a distinguished reputation in the West Bank for the comprehensive services that it provides for patients suffering from hearing loss, balance impairment, and dizziness.

The number of clinic referrals for the year 2004 reached 3488 patients, the majority of whom are from the greater Bethlehem area, with a relative weight of 74% of clinic referrals (see [Chart A](#) in Appendix C). Of the total referrals to the clinic 51% were children and 49% were adults.

[Chart B](#) illustrates the breakdown of services rendered. The majority of clinic referrals (2798 patients) were for a hearing assessment to investigate hearing loss resulting from middle ear infection or related to the nervous system of the hearing apparatus. Only 229 patients were seen for advanced hearing tests, such as the brain stem evoked response test. A total of 178 patients were referred to the balance clinic. One of them was diagnosed at the clinic with a brain tumor, and 3 with a central nervous system disorder, such as multiple sclerosis. Fifty patients were diagnosed to have benign paroxysmal positional vertigo. Twenty were diagnosed to have vestibular neuritis or labyrinthitis. The rest were either due to hypertension, anxiety, depression or other idiopathic factors.

The number of hearing aids fitted was 283. Of these, 14% were social cases that have been financially supported by the audiology department and other NGOs in the area.

Besides the daily clinical activities, the department has implemented a series of educational lectures for ENT and neurology specialists on the assessment of patients suffering from dizziness, in order to raise awareness about our services among those interested or working in those fields. The first lecture was conducted at the International Center of Bethlehem, where 12 ENT specialists and neurologists attended the lecture, all of whom were from Bethlehem. We estimate that the number of attendants would have been larger if the political situation hadn't restricted easy travel between Palestinian cities, so in order to compensate for this, the same lecture was conducted for the medical staff at Augusta Victoria hospital in Jerusalem. We also intend to conduct such lectures in Ramallah and Hebron in the future, to ensure a better referral system to the clinic. In further community outreach, the clinic conducted a one day, free of charge screening program for hearing problems at the governmental hospital of Jericho.


A challenge facing the audiology department is the need for acquiring additional equipment and upgrading the equipment it has. Hopefully, increasing outreach programs to areas such as Ramallah will bring patients and financial support which will both necessitate and provide for those improvements. We also hope to increase the scope of care provided to patients to include the rehabilitation of cochlear patients, the assessment of tinnitus patients, and the use of the DSL method in fitting hearing aids to children.

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Wellness Center

In the past year, we have managed to work with a large and diverse group of people: men and women, children and families, young and old, from all walks of life. Our programming is focused mainly on providing opportunities for underserved groups, especially women and children.

Programs and the number of people/families served are shown in the table below:

Swimming pool use	1170 families	
Fitness room use	1615 people	
Sauna use	2943 people	
Aerobics class	1571 women	
Yoga class	632 women	
Taebo class	14 women	
ECP swimming class	260 students	
ECP karate class	40 students	
Women's swimming class	15 courses, serving 146 women	
Men's swimming class	8 courses, serving 60 men	
"Bright Stars" participants in swimming and karate	1134 children	
Number of children from school programs other than Dar al-Kalima School	442 children	

Children's Programs

1. Dar al-Kalima Model School Extracurricular Program (ECP)
2. Bright Stars
3. Karate Classes
4. Girls' Ballet Classes

The Health and Wellness Center offers classes in karate and swimming for the children of Dar al-Kalima School as part of the school's Extracurricular Program, in which approximately 200 children participate. A separate program was also developed in 2004 for the Kindergarten children of Dar al-Kalima School and their mothers. Every Wednesday, mothers accompany their 3 and 4 year olds to swim together and to enjoy the relaxing environment of the Dar al-Kalima Health and Wellness Center.

Children of the Bright Stars program gather every Friday and Sunday at the Health and Wellness Center for art, music, sports, swimming, karate, communications, and environmental activity clubs, each according to his or her talents and gifts.

Our karate program operates at both beginning and intermediate levels. Four groups meet for training every Friday and Sunday, three of which are getting ready for the yellow belt while the fourth is seeking the orange one. We are proud of the children's achievement, and pleased that their success is

encouraging others to join. To accommodate all interested children, two more courses will be added to the Friday and Sunday schedule.

Ballet classes are offered for girls and young women between the ages of 6 and 16. In December, the students gave a performance at Addar Conference and Cultural Center to a large audience of family and friends.

Women's Programs

1. Yoga
2. Aerobics
3. Swimming

The yoga program for women has been one of the main programs at the Dar al-Kalima Health and Wellness Center. The number of women participating in both the program's morning and evening courses continues to increase. Future plans include offering yoga courses for men, since there has been a demand to do so.

Special morning and evening programs for women, combining aerobics with swimming, sauna and fitness machines, continued to be popular.

In 2004 we helped around 200 women learn to swim. The ages of these women ranged from 18 to 75, and they came from Bethlehem and the surrounding cities as well as neighboring villages and the refugee camps in the Bethlehem area. Three women trainers have undertaken the teaching of these women.

Men's Programs

We offered swimming courses for around 100 men this year, both young and old. This program is run in the afternoons and in late evenings. In 2005 we plan to expand this program to reach 150 men.

Family Programs

Encouraging family recreation time is a high priority, so we continue to offer families the opportunity to spend time together enjoying the pool facilities and fitness rooms.

Facility Improvement

As we continue to provide quality service to our members, we are continuously updating our facilities. To ensure the best possible efficacy of the Center we underwent a two-week maintenance period at the beginning of August, during which the Center was closed and the building completely renovated. The building, machines and equipment underwent complete testing and maintenance. New features were added, such as the logo of the Health and Wellness Center, which is a mosaic work of art done by one of the artists at the International Center of Bethlehem.

Specific improvements have added to the superior quality of our facilities, such as the addition of water cisterns to gather rain water for irrigating the trees and plants of the Nature Reserve, and the continuing work on the boundary walls and planting of trees along the borders.

Human Resources Development

An investment in human resources was also made in 2004. In September, program coordinator Mr. Rami Khader received a scholarship to continue his studies in Wellness Management at River Forest in Illinois, USA. He will finish his studies and return to work at the Health and Wellness Center in 2006.

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10. Dar al-Kalima School – Naila Kharroub

2004 was a year of growth and development for the students of the Dar al-Kalima Model School, as well as for the school itself. Through intercultural exchanges with other schools, guest lecturers and visiting experts, and continuing education programs for our teachers, we are striving to make each year the best there has ever been. Our graduates enroll in university courses at one of the highest rates among Palestinian schools, and continue to benefit in the university and the workplace from the self-based learning skills and creative problem solving techniques they learned with us.

For demographic statistics on the Dar al-Kalima School, please see [Appendix D](#) below. For the Extra Curricular Program timetable (includes clubs and teachers by day and grade level) please see [Appendix E](#) below.

Some highlights for Dar al-Kalima School in 2004 were:

- “Sharing Stories and Dreams,” a project initiated by the Arab Educational Institute to have students from Palestinian and Dutch schools share stories and dreams. All of the 10th and 11th grade students in Dar al-Kalima participated in this program. A website (www.iky.nl/elo) facilitated the exchange of information and ideas between the Palestinian and Dutch students. First, the students wrote notes to get to know each other better; second, they wrote a story about a personal injustice or an injustice that the students were fairly familiar with, which ended with a dream that would overcome that particular injustice. By December, 2004, all of the stories and dreams were uploaded onto the special website, which made it possible for all the students to view the postings, to read, analyze, compare and contrast, and ask questions about the stories.
- A letter-writing campaign to the presidential candidates in the USA was organized by the Arab Educational Institute in September 2004. In the letters the students were asked to reflect a picture of their daily life in Palestine, describing the details of living under the injustice of the Occupation, with real-life examples that they have lived or witnessed.
- The “Building Bridges” program (part of the Seeds of Peace initiative), operating at Dar al-Kalima School in Palestine and at a school in Israel, involves students from grades 8-10 and encourages them to discuss issues pertaining to being active members of their communities and responsible citizens.
- The ELCJHL Schools and Danish Secondary School Teacher’s Union met in August, 2004, to discuss the development of a knowledge and expertise exchange between school administrators in Palestine and in Denmark. Themes for six seminars were decided on, which are:
 1. School Management
 2. Democracy in Schools
 3. Environmental Education
 4. Utilization of Alternative Methods and Skills in Teaching
 5. Classroom Management and Development of Positive Classroom Environment
 6. Toward Developing Creativity and Critical Thinking in Education



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Appendix A – Workshop Statistics

Course Participant Demographics

	Course	Age	F	M	mothers	un-married	employed	for hobby
1	Glass Course	Above 18	6	2	5	3	7	1
2	Mosaic Course	Above 18	2	7	1	5 men	3	1
3	Paper Cut Course	Above 18	7		4	1	3	3
4	School Teachers crafts training course	Above 18	5	2			7 teachers	
5		Stole design	Above 18	3		1	2	0
6	Ceramic workshop	Above 18	4	1		4	3	
7	Olive paper making	Above 18	16	3		12	8 teachers	
8	Engraving and printing	Above 14	8	5	5	6	4	8
9	Painting workshop	6 - 12 old	7	4				
10	Painting workshop	12 - 16 old	5	2				
11	Painting workshop	Above 18	11	4				
	Total (106 participants)		73	30				

Course Participant Hometowns

	Course	Bethlehem	Beit-Jala	Beit-Sahour	Refugee camp	Other places	international
1	Glass Course	3	1	3			1
2	Mosaic Course	3	1	5		1 Bedouin	
3	Paper Cut Course	2	1	1	1		2
4	School Teachers crafts training course	1	2	3		1 Hebron	
5		Stole design		1	1	1	
6	Ceramic workshop	1	2	1	1		
7	Olive paper making	4	5	7	3		
8	Engraving and printing	4	5	2	1	1 Bedouin	
9	Painting workshop	5	6				
10	Painting workshop	3	1	1	1	1 Dar Salah	
11	Painting workshop	5	5	2		3 unknown	
	Total (106 participants)						

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Appendix B – Ad-Dar Events for 2004

N°	Type of event	Name of Group/person	Date	N° of audience
JANUARY				
1.	Young Talent Show	students of the NCM	January 3 rd	50
2.	Film Screening	<i>Simone</i>	January 9 th	0
3.	Art film Screening	<i>Frida Khalo</i>	January 16 th	10
4.	Theater Play	<i>Stories Under Occupation</i>	January 17 th	110
5.	CD launching	<i>Bass Shwai</i> by the NCM	January 23 rd	70
6.	Meet the artist	Candace Bahouth	January 29 th	20
FEBRUARY				
7.	Comedy Show	<i>From Within Us</i> by Inad Theatre	February 5 th	130
8.	Film Screening for kids	<i>Air Bud</i>	February 6 th	26
9.	Doc. Film Screening	<i>Ijtiyah & Tahadi</i> by Nizar Hassan	February 19 th	55
10.	Health day		February 20 th	200
11.	In memory of Fadwa Touqan		February 20 th	90
12.	Rap Concert	Clotaire K	February 21 st	400
13.	Film Screening	<i>The Pianist</i>	February 27 th	30
MARCH				
14.	Documentary film screening	<i>In the Spider's Web</i> by Hanna Musleh	March 4 th	140
15.	Film Screening for kids	<i>George of the Jungle</i>	March 5 th	17
16.	Video Program in Palestine	Several short and long films	March 9 th -13 th	26
17.	Theater for kids	<i>Green Adventures</i>	March 17 th	730
18.	Theater play	<i>Searching Handala</i>	March 18 th	40
19.	Film Screening for kids		March 19 th	70
20.	Film Screening	<i>The Passion of the Christ</i>	March 19 th -21 st , 25 th -27 th	489
21.	Lecture	<i>Christian Zionism</i>	March 31 st	50
APRIL				
22.	Easter Event for kids	Egg Coloring, face painting	April 2 nd	100
23.	Book reading	<i>A Season in Bethlehem</i>	April 3 rd	23
24.	Choir concert	<i>The Olive Branches</i>	April 7 th	100
25.	Doc. Screening	<i>Arna's Children</i>	April 13 th	40
26.	Concert	<i>Wassim Odeh</i>	April 16 th	35
27.	Film Screening	<i>Eila</i> –Finnish film	April 22 nd	5
MAY				
28.	Rap concert	DAM Group	May 6 th	310
29.	Concert	Kesergo	May 7 th	50
30.	Documentary film screening	<i>Between Heaven and Earth</i> by Alia Arsoughli	May 12 th	120
31.	Literature Festival	Schools of Bethlehem area	May 13 th	200
32.	Concert	Awj Choral Group	May 14 th	80
33.	Party	DJ Hans Nieswandt	May 15 th	30
34.	Film Screening	<i>Taif Al Madina</i>	May 19 th	0
35.	Concert	OPUS	May 21 st	60

36.	Book discussion	<i>Stolen Youth</i>	May 26 th	60
37.	Concert	Duo Chamorra	May 28 th	65
JUNE				
38.	Theater Show	<i>Smile, you are Palestinian</i>	June 3 rd	110
39.	Concert	Suz Del	June 4 th	30
40.	Documentary film scrng	<i>Quintessence of Oblivion</i>	June 9 th	40
41.	Concert	Alexander Suleiman-cello	June 11 th	40
42.	Theater Show for kids	Martin Hinder from Germany	June 12 th	20
43.	Concert	Zaridash	June 18 th	45
44.	Concert	Elise Caron-French Singer	June 20 th	140
45.	Concert	Said Lighzawi- Guitar	June 25 th	Cancelled
46.	Theater show for kids	<i>Against the Current</i>	June 28 th	120
47.	Closing party for the NCM	Graduation	June 30 th	200
JULY				
48.	Poetry Festival		July 2 nd – 8 th	200
49.	Concert	Al-Kamandjati Group	July 7 th	120
50.	Fashion show	Organized by the FTI	July 10 th	370
51.	Documentary film scrng	<i>Karamt al'aysh</i>	July 19 th	0
52.	Documentary film scrng	<i>Radm &</i>	July 22 nd	1
53.	Theater festival for kids	<i>Al-Sultan Al-Anid Wa Al-Hadad Asaid</i>	July 20 th	160
54.	Theater festival for kids	بانعة الكبريت	July 21 st	210
55.	Theater festival for kids	<i>Humus Balila</i>	July 22 nd	103
56.	Theater festival for kids	<i>Fakran's Dream</i>	July 23 rd	120
AUGUST				
57.	Film screening for kids	<i>Max Keeble's Big Move</i>	August 4 th	19
58.	Documentary film	<i>Fahrenheit 9/11</i>	August 4 th	202
59.	Documentary film	<i>Fahrenheit 9/11</i>	August 5 th	180
60.	Meet with the Artist	Ayreen Anastas	August 5 th	25
61.	Dance Show	El-Funoun Dance Troupe	August 6 th	150
62.	Film Screening for kids	<i>Treasure Planet</i>	August 11 th	6
63.	Documentary screening By Amahl Bishara	<i>Across Oceans, Among Colleagues</i>	August 11 th	50
64.	Film Screening	<i>Monsoon Wedding</i>	August 13 th	11
SEPTEMBER				
65.	Documentary film scrng	<i>A Ball and a Coloring Box</i>	September 9 th	70
66.	Theater Show	<i>Smile, you are Palestinian</i>	September 10 th & 11 th	400
67.	Gallery Talk	Alexandra Handal	September 15 th	17
68.	Film screening	<i>Route 181</i>	September 16 th	10
69.	Poetry Evening		September 17 th	150
70.	Dabka Show	Ibda' Dance Group	September 18 th	50
71.	IN MEMORY OF	Debate @ B.U.	September 21 st	80
72.	Edward Said	Concert @ ICB	September 23 rd	100
73.		Film screening @ Peace Center	September 25 th	20
74.	Documentary screening	<i>"Women in Struggle"</i>	September 30 th	70
OCTOBER				
75.	Comedy Show	Ivor Dembina	October 5 th	95

76.	Concert	Reem Banna and Norwegian singer	October 9 th	150
77.	Cine-Mix	Silent pictures of Paris with DJ and Oriental Music	October 12 th	80
78.	Lecture	Paper making tradition	October 14 th	
79.	Doc. Screening	<i>Good Morning Qalqilia</i>	October 14 th	100
80.	Theater show	<i>The Dream & the Knowledge</i>	October 22 nd	Cancelled
81.	Film Screening	<i>Finding Forrester</i>	October 22 nd	6
82.	Olive Harvest Day		October 25 th	0
NOVEMBER				
83.	Lutheran reformation day	Activities with schools	November 1 st	300
84.	Concert	Student Orchestra of ESNM	November 6 th	250
85.	Film screening for kids	<i>ET: The Extra Terrestrial</i>	November 12 th	Cancelled
86.	Documentary screening	<i>Atash</i>	November 18 th	Cancelled
87.	Book Reading	Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb	November 19 th	80
88.	Concert	East West Musical Dialogue	November 24 th	Cancelled
89.	Concert	Wissam Bustani	November 25 th	Cancelled
90.	Story Dance Show	Zuleikha	November 29 th	Cancelled
DECEMBER				
91.	Cinema-Circus Show	La Caravane Suspendue	December 9 th	270
92.	Christmas Event	Bright Stars	December 18 th	500
93.	Concert	Bach's Christmas Oratorio	December 23 rd	400
TOTAL NUMBER			9901	

N.B. – Most events were quite successful and well-attended, though some cancellations occurred. Cancellations were due to unpredictable political situations which either caused no one to show up at the event that day, or the speaker/presenter to cancel at the last minute. The cancellations in November were due to the 40 days' mourning for the death of Yasser Arafat.

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Appendix C – Charts for Dar Al-Kalima Audiology Clinic Report

Chart A

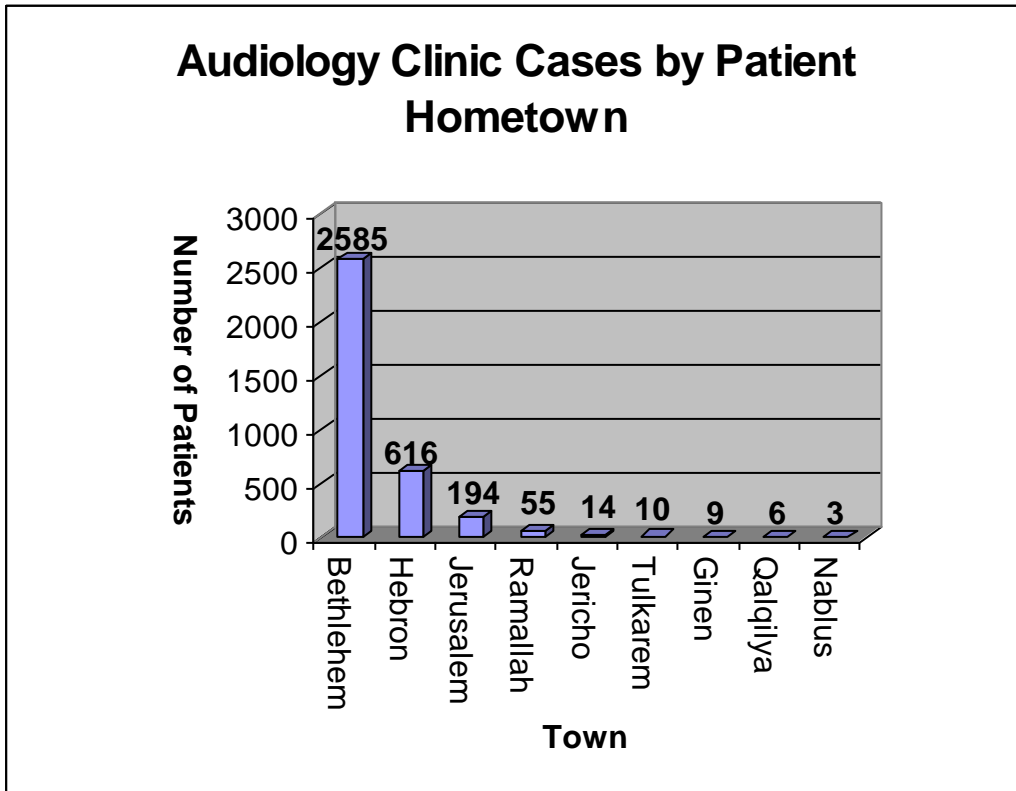
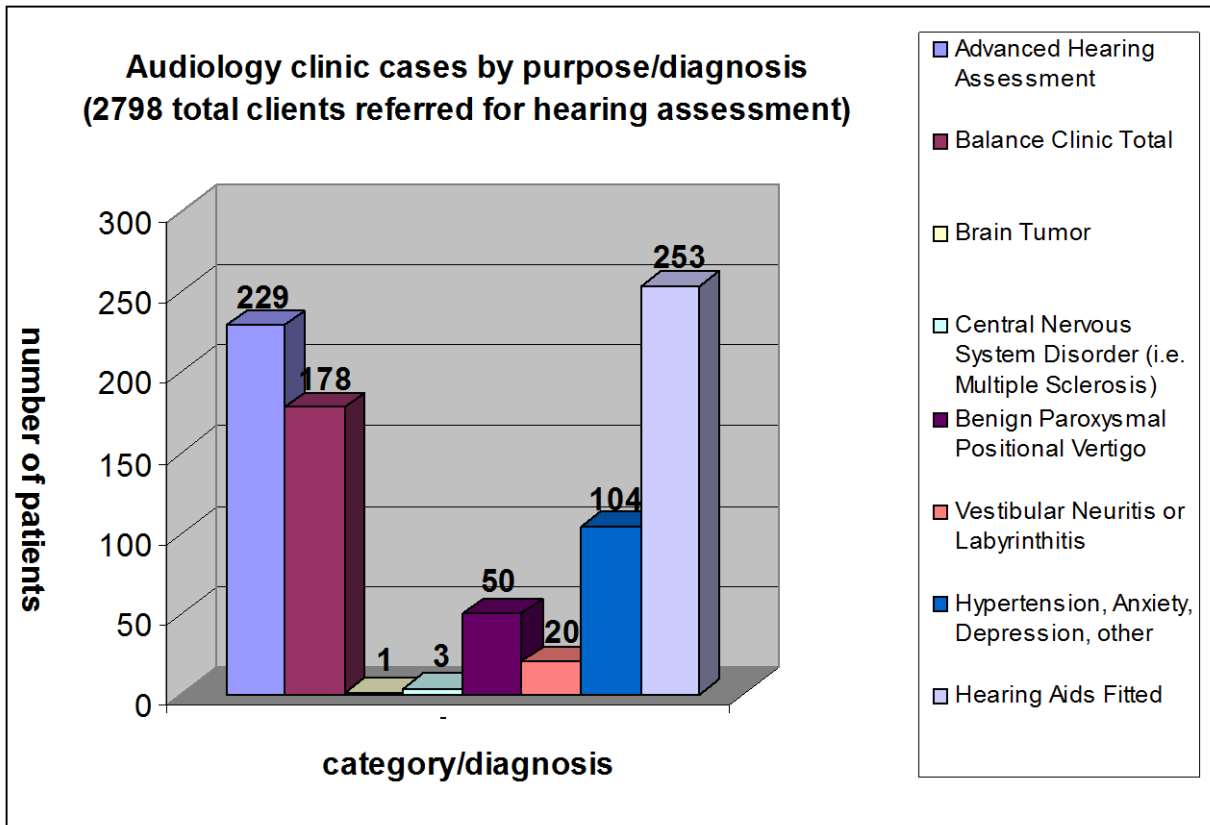


Chart B



Appendix D – Demographic Statistics for 2004

Number of Students According to Gender		
Gender	Number of Students	Percentage
Female	105	39.77%
Male	159	60.23%
Total	264	100.00%

Number of Students According to Religion		
Religion	Number of Students	Percentage
Christian	113	42.80%
Muslim	151	57.20%
Total	264	100.00%

Number of Students According to Classes		
Classes	Number of Students	Percentage
Pre-school & Kindergarten	55	20.83%
Class 1 – 6	129	48.86%
Class 7 – 12	80	30.31%
Total	264	100.00%

Number of Students According to Cities		
Cities & Villages	Number of Students	Percentage
Al-Khader	1	0.38%
Al-Doha	4	1.52%
Jerusalem	1	0.38%
Beit Jala	50	18.94%
Bethlehem	17	6.44%
Beit Sahour	160	60.61%
Wadi Fukin	1	0.38%
Other	30	11.35%
Total	264	100.00%

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Appendix E – Timetable for Extra Curricular Programs (ECP’s) for 2004

The purpose of the Extra Curricular Program (ECP) is to encourage and refine the talents of students that cannot be and are not accentuated and integrated in the regular scholastic material or syllabi, like drama, swimming, music, art, and journalism.

Grades	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
	club	Place	club	Place	club	Place	club	Place
1 – 2	Sports - Deeb Games + drama – Iman Drawing – Fadi Arts + Crafts: Gabriella	K1 Grade 2 Grade 1	Arts + Crafts – Gabriella Science – Nida Art – Fadi ECW - Mary	Grade 1 Grade 3 Grade 2 Grade 4	Story telling - Liza Music - George Computer – Faris	Grade 1 Grade 3 Com. lab	Swimming Drama – Iman Sports – Deeb	WC K1
3 – 4 – 5	Swimming – Karate – Hani Music – George Art – Mary ACW - Mohammed	WC WC Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5	Swimming C. Studies - Deeb Computer – Faris Environment – Mahm. Music - George	WC Grade 5 Com. labGrade 10 Grade 7	Karate – Hani Sports - John Folklore dance – Mary ECW – Mary T. V. Education – Suheil	WC K2 Grade 7	Arts + Crafts – Gabriella Music – George Art – Mary Sports - John	Grade 2 Grade 4 Grade 1
6 – 7 – 8	Swimming Computer – Faris Sports – John Folklore dance – Nicola Glass fusing - Tareq	WC Com. Lab K2 Grade 4	Music - George Karate – Hani V. Education – Suheil Mosaic - Abeer Arts –Rania Drama - Jillian	Grade 7 WC W. shop Grade 6 Grade 8 K	Swimming Arts + Crafts - Gabriella C. Studies – Deeb Bead – Doris Sports – John Bells Choir - Najwa	WC Grade 5 Grade 6 Grade 4 Grade 10	Crit. Think – Nida' + Lina V. Education - Suheil Bead workshop- Doris	Grade 6 Grade 7 Grade 5
9 – 10 – 11	Swimming Folk. Dance – Nicola Glass fusing – Tareq Technology – Suheil	WC K2 Grade 4 Grade 7	Swimming Art – Mary Mosaic – Abeer Sports – John Music – George	WC Grade 8 Grade 6 Grade 7	C. Studies - Deeb Bead work – Doris Bells Choir – Najwa Swimming	Grade 6 Grade 4 Grade 10 WC	Computer – Faris Story Writing – Moh. V. Education – Suheil Swimming	Com. Lab WC

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Appendix F – Global Servant Leader Program

International Centers' Second Meeting in Mexico City, Mexico
28 February – 5 March 2004

The International Centers' Network, comprising of the International Center of Bethlehem, Luther Center in Wittenberg and Mexico Center gathered in Mexico City, Mexico from February 28 – March 5, 2004 for the second time, the first meeting had taken place during 2003 in Dallas, Texas. The three centers are recognized by the ELCA as a Life Long Learning Centers.

The three existing centers share strategies for the training and transformation of global servant leaders. The hope is that by developing a shared vision and connections between the three centers, these centers can be bridges and points of contact in the international church.

What does it mean to be an International Center?

These centers have a commitment to faith transformation that can occur when one experiences God in another context and culture. There is a sense that “we need the other to know ourselves.” The shared commitment of the three centers is to bringing people to a deeper understanding of the reformation movement.

Each of the three centers has its unique gifts, and there is commitment to letting the uniqueness of each speak. One of the ways of doing this is by being true to the context of each center and letting that context do the teaching. Each also is working with reformation as a living heritage, a movement that allows them to be bridge builders. The focus, therefore, is certainly on transforming individuals and also transforming the church. The centers may be part of the Holy Spirit's work of readying the church for whatever new forms it will need to take in order to be part of the global village, always asking the questions “What does the church need to be for today? What is God doing now?” Therefore these centers are a window through which we can look to see the world. These three centers offer three different views.

In order to be these kinds of centers—and to be this kind of church—we must be willing to lose ourselves in the process of re-forming. What remains constant is the core Lutheran identity of being a reforming movement in the Christian church.

Bethlehem as a place of Formation.

Lutherstadt Wittenberg as a place of Reformation

Mexico City as a place of Transformation

The Mission Statement of the International Centers presently reads:

Encountering people and places of formation, reformation and transformation to become Global Servant Leaders in a changing/tumultuous world and a changing/searching church.

The meeting in Mexico focused during the first three days on involving the participants in an immersion experience in Mexico City and Cuernavaca. This experience included learning about the Mexican history, thus a visit was organized to view the murals painted by Diego Rivera on the walls of the National Palace. These murals depict various periods of and themes in Mexican history through the early 20th century. In addition, a tour of the museum at the Temple Mayor, the ruins of a large pyramid which was the site of religious rituals, was arranged as well as a presentation on 20th century Mexican history.

Another city, Cuernavaca, was a focus during this gathering, mainly highlighting the current struggle in Mexico between the multi-national corporations and the local culture that is being razed in favor for the international companies. The participants heard a presentation on the recent struggle between those who were developing a large shopping area that included a Costco store, and those who were attempting to preserve a casino building which contained another famous set of murals. The effort, on one level, was unsuccessful in that the casino was razed and the Costco store and a large grocery store were built on the site. However their efforts did seem to have affected the political climate in Cuernavaca in terms of both participation in the political process and awareness among local officials that future projects of the sort would require greater involvement of local citizens. Another issue that was highlighted was the plight of the Mexican people in terms of poverty and housing. The participants had a chance to meet with two families in the squatter settlement called La Estacion, who talked about their lives in the settlement and the community organizing that was going on in their efforts to win title to their properties.

After the 3-day immersion experience, the participants began a more formal time of reflection.

A 3rd meeting is scheduled for the network to take place in Bethlehem in 2005.

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