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justice and hope for the forgotten

WORDS OF HOPE

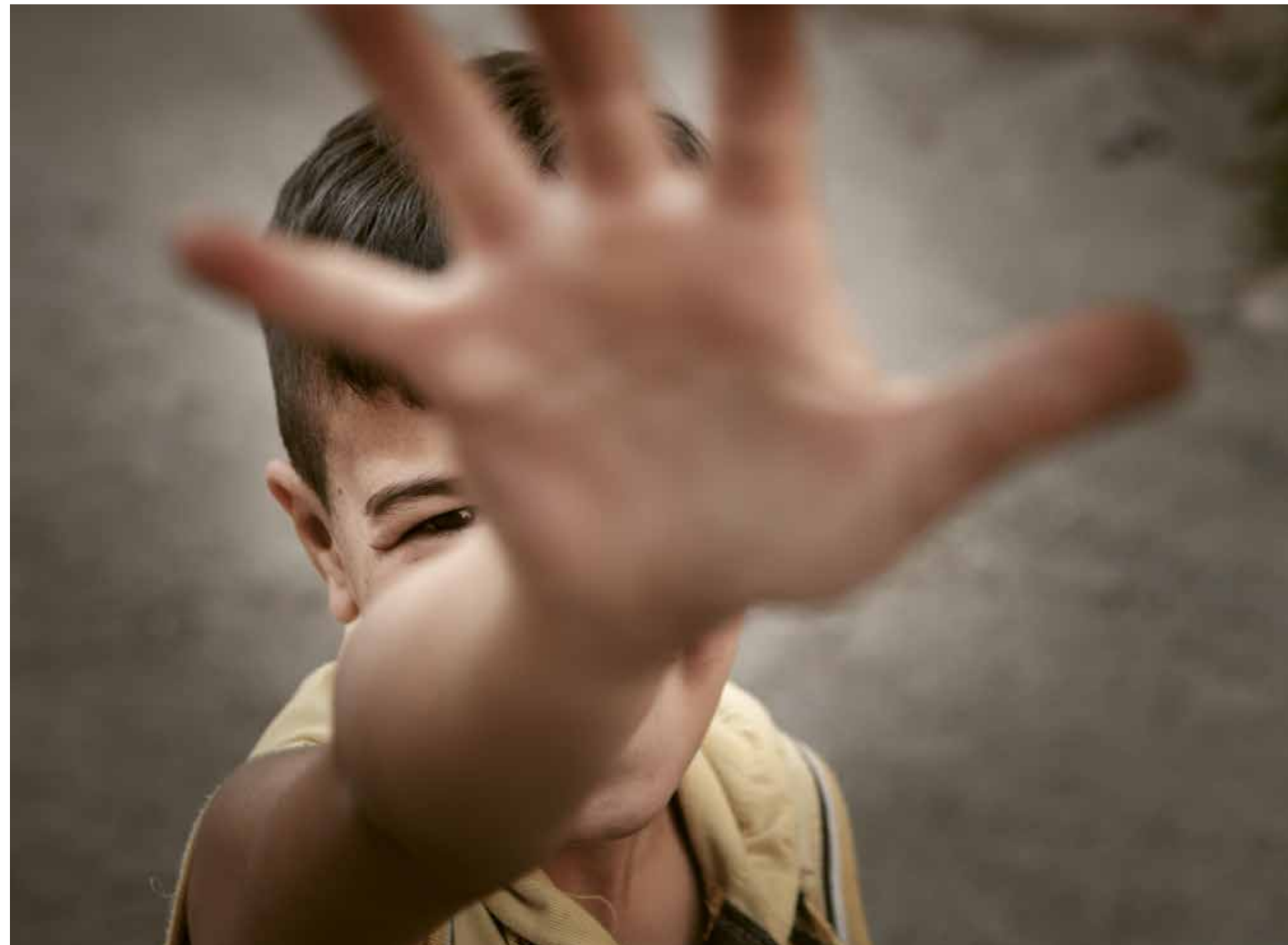
A NEWSPAPER FROM AMOS TRUST



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FRONT COVER
An old man in a West Bank refugee camp shares his thoughts about the 100-year anniversary of the BALFOUR DECLARATION — August 2017.
© Amos Trust/Mark Kensett



BELOW
A young boy plays in front of the camera in AIDA REFUGEE CAMP during this summer's Palestine Experience photography, film and theatre/dance trip — August 2017.
© Amos Trust/Mark Kensett

THE RETURN... {OR, WHAT WE DID NEXT}

WORDS Chris Rose

On returning from JERUSALEM I feel a burden to try to make sense of the JUST WALK, so as to ease the re-entry for the nine walkers who have put their normal lives on hold for the last five months and the four others who walked half way. I feel the need to capture why it meant so much for the 100+ walkers who joined for part of it, and why it was so important for all those who did so much to make it happen and the thousands more who rooted for it.

But I find myself failing, I can't yet make sense of it as a pilgrimage or work out its impact on me, other than to say that even if it had been a damp squib in PALESTINE, it still would have been immensely worthwhile. It was a faith journey, which the concepts of mindfulness come nowhere close to capturing.

Nor can I imagine the impact of our contrition and apology to the Palestinians we met and the far far greater number watching on TV. As they thanked us and were so appreciative of our solidarity, I could not help but feel a fraud. Yes, we had walked a long way and goodness knows our apology was heartfelt but I have never been wronged in the way that they have and cannot imagine quite what a century of dispossession feels like. So I will follow the advice we always give, and tell the stories from the Walk (*see page 4*), and wait for wisdom to come.

If you want to hear more about the Walk and the incredible work of HOLY LAND TRUST, then please join us for our carol services and Sami Awad's speaking engagements (*see page 21*). Each one features special guests and they will be a great way to start the holiday season. In the run up to Christmas, our thoughts go out to our partners working with teenage girls — trying to survive on the streets, many of whom are themselves parents. On page 6, you can read of this summer's visit to KARUNALAYA in India and the work they are developing with these desperately vulnerable girls and young women.

Our Christmas appeal is for the work of HOLY LAND TRUST and AL AHLI HOSPITAL in Gaza. If ever St John's description of a light shining in the darkness was appropriate, it's in Gaza, as the population faces up to 22 hours a day of power cuts and after 10 years of blockade, a fresh drive to bring them to their knees. The level of suffering grows and grows and as with other parts of the Middle East, the innocent victims are forgotten as global and regional powers jostle for supremacy. Our partners' work in Palestine is so vital and needs our support and yet we must do more and hear their call to lobby our Government to CHANGE THE RECORD.

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ABOVE
Over 160 people snake their way through the Judeaan Wilderness in the West Bank on Just Walk to Jerusalem — 27th October 2017
© Amos Trust/Mark Kensett

JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM

A DIARY FROM JORDAN TO PALESTINE

With JUST WALK now completed, Amos Director CHRIS ROSE shares some of the highlights from the final stage through the West Bank.

WORDS Chris Rose PHOTOGRAPHY Mark Kensett



To watch and share our new short film about Just Walk to Jerusalem, please visit vimeo.com/amostrust/just-walk

RIGHT
The Just Walk 'all-way' Walkers on the Mount of Olives on 2nd November 2017 — the centenary of the Balfour Declaration, shortly before walking through the Lion's Gate into the Old City where Just Walk ended.
© Amos Trust/Mark Kensett

ON OUR FIRST NIGHT IN JERICHO, the thirteen half or 'all-way' walkers, recounted their favourite moments to the 60 people gathered to complete our 3,400km journey to Jerusalem.

Tim and Cressey talked of the hospitality of strangers; Jude and Naomi on how completing the climb to the St. Bernard Pass gave them the belief that they could complete the walk; for Jack, it was the walk down through the Aosta Valley and the need to cover 9km in 90 minutes to catch the last cable car of the day.

Arthur described a mythical early morning ferry ride across the river Po, while Justin recounted an electrical storm that surrounded the boat from Ancona to Durres. Denise and Lynn spoke of their companions, the core group and its ever-changing roster of over 100 people, while for Robin it was the scream of an Albanian guide: "I have to stop! My knees! They are going to explode."

Jenny recounted Jack leading the liturgy in Turkey and playing Louis Armstrong's 'What a Wonderful World'. While David told of walking into an empty village in Macedonia and visiting the church to find the inhabitants celebrating a funeral rite. Father Goran delayed the service to talk to us and when asked for a blessing replied, "Who am I to bless you? I am just a person. Your walk is your blessing."

Thirty of us came into Jericho through Jordan, where a second-generation Palestinian showed us Jabal el-Hussein camp, one of ten UNWRA camps; 60% of Jordan's population are Palestinian refugees, who cannot visit their homeland.

The crossing of the Allenby Bridge was our greatest concern, 95% of the time it would be fine, but was this going to be different? Would our walk end here? However, thirty minutes after arriving, we were in Palestine, where we were greeted by the Jericho Mayor, local Palestinians and those who had flown into Tel Aviv.

The next day we walked down the Masari Ibrahim trail to the centre of Jericho for a live transmission on Palestine TV. During the interview we apologised for the impact of Balfour on Palestinians, rejected Theresa May's celebration of the Declaration and asserted that Britain had no right to promise this land to another.

People ask about UK coverage of the Walk,

however our apology is to those who state that their suffering started on November 2nd 1917. So when Palestine TV started to run regular updates and extended specials on the Walk and as numerous other Middle-Eastern, Israeli-Arabic speaking and Palestinian channels picked it up, it was fantastic.

After Jericho, we walked with a hundred young adults from RIGHT TO MOVEMENT in Tuqu, for a fantastic day of laughter, dancing and a traditional Bedouin lunch.

Then we joined up with our partners ALROWWAD and walked from Aida camp to al Azra camp, onto Dheisha camp for lunch and then finally south to Aroub camp for dinner. Sunday started in a local school in Aroub and a visit to the family who's home we'd rebuilt in 2015. It was deeply moving to see how it has transformed their lives and they are now adding a second floor for their son's wedding.

At the entrance to Hebron, the Governor, local NGO leaders and Youth Against Settlements greeted us. They took us to walk between Kiryat Alba settlement and the Palestinian communities as a demonstration of international support. The level of physical and verbal aggression directed at us and the large number of police and army called in to move us on was unnerving. A member of the Governor's office was arrested for defending himself from a settler's assault, a powerful demonstration of how settlers come under Israeli law and Palestinians under military law.

HOLY LAND TRUST were the most fantastic hosts/partners. They took us to meet the Bedouin communities in the South Hebron Hills. We began the day at a HIRN girls school in Az-Zuweid which is part funded by a couple of our walkers and where the girls enthusiasm for their presentation was beautiful. They were amazed when Naomi explained how far we had walked and why.

Then to Um al-Khair, a village on the edge of an ever-expanding illegal Israeli settlement, whose grazing land has been taken, homes demolished and where there is no running water or electricity. From here we walked to the SUMUD CAMP, established by Holy Land Trust with a coalition of local Palestinian and Israeli peace organisations, to create a permanent presence in these villages. We finished in the dark in Susya, where the community wait to hear if the Israeli government is going to forcibly remove them,

or if international pressure will prevail.

Next we went to the Negev Desert for a highly symbolic walk with AJEEC's Negev Institute between Bedouin communities inside Israel — some of these communities have been destroyed one hundred times.

Then on to the Gaza border where our host, an Israeli artist, talked of her fear for her children and explained how the Wall and the 2014 attack were necessary. Her indifference to the consequences in Gaza and lack of awareness was deeply unnerving. However, standing by the Wall, looking out over Gaza as Nive read Khaled Juma's 'RASCAL CHILDREN OF GAZA' was highly profound.

On the 1st November we were in Bethlehem to visit Wi'am and for Banksy's street party at the Walled Off Hotel and the unveiling of an apology carved in the Separation Wall. Later that night, Holy Land Trust organised a candle lit vigil in Manger Square. The Imam and Orthodox Bishop led prayers for peace and Sami and I spoke at this very simple yet poignant event.

As the centenary itself dawned, eleven of us travelled to Jerusalem to present the British Consul General a 'revised' Balfour Declaration and an open letter to Theresa May. From here we headed to Ramallah as special guests at a conference for Palestinian ministers and international bodies. We then fulfilled an invitation to appear at the protest in the centre of Ramallah before walking over to the Presidential complex for a private lunch with President Mahmoud Abbas.

Our last walk was down the Mount Of Olives to enter Jerusalem through the Lion's Gate, where those who had joined us lined up to applaud the core walkers into the City. Then finally, we walked across the city to St George's Cathedral for a service of penance and to mark the end of the Walk, led by Garth Hewitt with Zoughbie Zoughbie and Naim Ateek.

Each day we were asked what protests were happening in the UK, so we flew back to join 15,000 protestors in London. We read the words of the liturgy for a final time to the assembled crowd and told them what we had done, before Justin, the instigator of the Walk, and I were asked to join the front of the walk to Parliament Square.

FREEDOM STREET

KARUNALAYA IN THE UK

PAUL SUNDER-SINGH from KARUNALAYA, our street child partner in India, visited the UK in September. AZEY BENNETTS reflects on his visit.

WORDS Azey Bennetts PHOTOGRAPHY Tom Merilion



In September we welcomed PAUL SUNDER-SINGH, Founder and Director of KARUNALAYA CENTRE FOR STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN in Chennai, India. After joining us at Amos Day he undertook a whirlwind tour, visiting schools, churches and a series of curry nights, meeting Amos supporters.

One Indian street snack Paul introduced supporters to at the curry nights was PANI PURI — a small, round, 'puri' with spiced chickpea inside. You fill it with a spicy minty liquid (pani), and eat it whole! Fun *and* tasty, it connected us to the street food vendors at CHENNAI TRAIN STATION where many street children who have travelled India's vast railway network end up. It also connects people to Chennai's Marina Beach where many beach food stalls sell pani puri, and where many of the city's street children come to beg for a few rupees to survive.

Paul spoke about the challenges poverty means for children, depriving them of their rights to childhood, safety, access to education and their ability to realise their futures. Gentrification of Chennai City means the government want clean streets and shiny shops, so the communities living on the streets — the pavement dwelling communities and the slums, are being pushed out and being forced to live in worse poverty than their ancestors who first came to the city for work. Children and especially teenage girls' rights are the first to be compromised, because they do not have the knowledge or collective voice to speak out.

These themes resonate with us in cities across the UK, as well as with our partners around the world. As inequality grows, it is societies' poorest that are almost always ignored, often not even realising they have rights to challenge this injustice.

Paul spoke about the challenges poverty means for children, depriving them of their rights to childhood, safety, access to education and their ability to realise their futures. Children and especially teenage girls' rights are the first to be compromised because they do not have the knowledge or collective voice to speak out.

OPPOSITE PAGE
A pavement-dwelling family living in Chennai — one of the many communities that Paul and the team from Karunalaya support.

BELOW LEFT
Sangeeta, aged 16. The small pile of clothes to her left is her bed.

BELOW RIGHT
Paul Sunder-Singh, Karunalaya's Director photographed in Chennai, India in August 2017

BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT
Girls from the Karunalaya girls centre pose for their portraits at Barracks Road, Chennai, India.

All photography: © Amos Trust/Tom Merilion



Karunalaya educates communities, and started the PAVEMENT DWELLERS ASSOCIATION to create a collective voice and to raise awareness of their rights so they cannot be ignored.

CAMPAIGNING FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IS A KEY PART OF KARUNALAYA'S WORK.

SANGEETA is a confident 16-year old who lives in a pavement dwelling community with her mum and sister. She came to Karunalaya's attention when she was made to leave school at 14 to work in a steel factory earning much less than a dollar a day. Sangeeta joined Karunalaya's football programme, which she now captains and re-enrolled in school. This year she passed her exams and secured a college sports scholarship.

At a recent Yatraa (rally) Sangeeta said that the dreams of street children are at risk of not being realised. Issues of child labour, physical and sexual abuse, drug and alcohol addiction, ruin their lives. "The government wants a clean India, but what about a poverty-free India?"

Paul highlighted that street children's rights have fallen so far down the government's priorities — their empty promises are failing children. It is our responsibility to keep the issue of street children and their rights in people's minds. I think about Sangeeta and her courage in challenging injustice, it's why we work with KARUNALAYA.

To join the next Amos trip to Chennai, India, please email azey@amostrust.org. To find out how you can support Karunalaya's work, please visit our website at amostrust.org/karunalaya



LEFT
"I thought we were going on the culinary tour."
CHRIS AND TARA, first-time marathon runners.
Bethlehem — April 2017
© Amos Trust/Nick Welsh

RIGHT
The whole of TEAM AMOS at the PALESTINE
MARATHON start line in Manger Square with
Chris and Tara bottom right.
© Amos Trust/Nick Welsh



PALESTINE MARATHON

MUPPETS & HEROES

TARA WIGLEY, tells the story of her first-time marathon — in PALESTINE.

WORDS Tara Wigley PHOTOGRAPHY Nick Welsh

"I had my sponsors on a WhatsApp group and suddenly had the not-very-sensible idea (apart from a fundraising point of view), to put the word out that 'if I run it twice and do a full marathon will everyone double their sponsorship?!'"

"I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING ON THE CULINARY TOUR" my husband said, about a week before we were due to go to PALESTINE with AMOS TRUST. Chris and I had not, suffice to say, been taking our training all that seriously. I'd half-trained for my half marathon but Chris genuinely thought that the word marathon was some sort of metaphor for the amount of falafel and hummus we were going to be eating during our time in JERUSALEM and PALESTINE.

We did get to eat a lot of falafel and hummus, as it happened, but we also did the run. I'd imagined that we were going to be slightly less hardcore than our group of fellow runners but I didn't actually think we'd be with a group that included a couple who were seeing in their 70th year by running a marathon every month (!) all over the world; and another lady who was doing her first half-marathon to mark her 60th birthday with her whippet-like husband who could run a marathon as easily as the rest of us can run a bath.

There was Eamon from Ireland who'd run about 25 marathons and Jenny who has used running as part of her battle back from cancer. We were the muppets amidst a group of heroes. However, there was no sense of competition and no one made anyone feel anything other than welcome and chilled but, cripes, Chris and I felt a bit tired in the legs just taking the stairs to our room on the 12th floor of the Holy Family Hotel in Bethlehem the afternoon before the run.

Jollying himself along at breakfast the morning of the run, Chris asked marathon-a-month-man whether he was ready. "I'm ready", he said, in his deep Texan drawl.

Turns out, though, that we were too. The lack of training on both Chris and my part were more than made up for by the atmosphere which hit us the minute we entered Manger Square which was packed with 6,000 runners — locals and internationals, all limbering up, dancing to the loud music and

letting go of the many pink balloons which were there to start the party. Big smiles and photos ensued as last-minute bananas were eaten and we all set off. It was pretty hot already and the clock had just gone past eight.

I knew that Palestine was rather hilly but the notion that 'what goes up, must come down' did not, I have to say, hold so true in the run where all the hills just seemed to go, quietly, up. Chris's training had consisted of walking fast on a cross-country trainer in the gym with the gradient set to steep, so he was a super running buddy for me, who'd only half-trained on a very flat route between Dulwich and Clapham in South London. Chris and I have been married since 2005 but we have never run together so it was actually quite a jolly get-together and we ticked off the miles one by one, him making me forget about the gradient and me encouraging him to run a little faster than he would have otherwise gone.

At about 10 miles, though, Chris dropped back and wanted to slow right down so we high-fived and off I trotted. I was feeling pretty punchy, actually, having spent the previous days eating as though I was running a marathon every day (the food is so good in Palestine that it would have been rude not to) and, crucially, having left our three young kids in London, sleeping a bit more and charging up the batteries. They were so charged, in fact — the gift of sleep, the gift of early nights, the gift of being with one's husband for a week for the first time in too many years, the gift of not being a mum for a week! — that I found myself turning into a bit of a Duracell bunny and, seeing the finish line in my sights at 13.6 miles, thought, 'hey, I'm not done!'

I had my sponsors on a WhatsApp group and suddenly had the not-very-sensible idea (apart from a fundraising point of view), to put the word out that 'if I run it twice and do a full marathon will everyone double their sponsorship?!'

Trotting on my tip toes I sent the message and, ping, straight away one of my colleagues at OTTOLENGHI said 'done' and then, ping ping ping, others were coming through, rooting me on with their doubled sponsorship.

'Cripes, better keep going then', I thought, imagining that I'd slow right down to an almost-walk as half-training for a half-marathon converted into quarter-training for a full marathon which really was not a very sensible or clever or grown up thing to do.

The sun was really creeping up by now so it was getting pretty hot. I plugged on, though — nothing like the sight of Separation Wall or refugee camp to make you think you can pull it out of the bag for another couple of hours — and it was all surprisingly okay. My time for the second half of the marathon was strangely similar to my first and I'll never forget the look on Chris's face as I saw him finishing up on his half-marathon and signalling a loop with my hand and shouting out above the crowds, "I'm doing another loop!" It was brilliant.

I was really flagging by the last mile or two and I'll never forget seeing first Chris and then the whole of Team Amos waiting for me at the finish line, all there and cheering me on. It was a real life experience.

I felt like I'd been run over by a bus the next day but I wouldn't have changed it for the world. I loved raising money, I loved being in Palestine and seeing where the money I had raised for Amos was going, I loved doing the run and I loved being part of the team. AND I REALLY REALLY REALLY LOVED ALL THOSE FALAFELS.

The 2018 AMOS TRUST PALESTINE MARATHON trip takes place between Tuesday 20th – Sunday 25th March next year. If you are interested in running either the full marathon, the half or the 10k, please visit amostrust.org/palestine-marathon-2018

RADICAL HOPE

LIFE AT UMTHOMBO

AZEY BENNETTS shares news from UMTHOMBO — our Street Child partner in DURBAN.

WORDS Azey Bennetts PHOTOGRAPHY Jules Abensour



At both girls' funerals, Umthombo's staff team were the only people present — they are familiar faces at street children's funerals; it is always painful, but from these funerals a radical hope was born.

The recent social media #METOO campaign shines a light on the sexual abuse and harassment that women face and I thought of Umthombo's work with girls and young women on the streets, where they experience sexual violence routinely.

Who are they being assaulted by? No one famous. No one who guarantees them an Oscar. Not big, powerful men, but ordinary men, with more power than them. Enough power to shut them up and make them feel worthless. Many of the girls Umthombo works with feel powerless and reliant on these same men for sex work. They are controlled by boyfriends or pimps through fear and violence. And with South Africa's high prevalence of HIV their lives are further devastated.

The first stage of Umthombo's work with girls and young women is to ensure that they receive medical care and psychosocial counselling. I was told about Zanele and Makhose. Earlier this summer these two young women, who had both been involved in commercial sex work, responded to Umthombo's outreach programme and came to stay at their shelter. Both girls eventually confided to social workers that although they had HIV, they had not been taking their treatment, and Zanele decided that rather than stay at the shelter she wanted to return home to her uncle.

He lives in an informal settlement with one room and is an alcoholic disappearing for long periods. Once at home, Zanele again failed to take her medication and her health further deteriorated. Umthombo intervened and she was taken to a palliative care facility. Makhosi's disease had also progressed and she died within weeks of her friend Zanele. At both girls' funerals, Umthombo's staff team were the only people present — they are familiar faces at street children's funerals; it is always painful, but from these funerals a radical hope was born.

The deaths of Zanele and Makhosi prompted 14 girls, who had known them, to take part in Umthombo's first ever girls' camp in September. The camp was held over two nights and three days, AWAY FROM THE STREETS, which marked a real milestone for the Umthombo team. Even for this short time they know how difficult it is for the girls to leave the streets behind. Amahle came to the camp because she wanted to reduce her dependency on drugs, she was hoping that after the weekend, when she returned to the streets, her cravings would be less.

Lerato described how she felt comforted to meet other street girls who were also mothers; together they want to build a support network on the streets. Mpendulo, Director of Umthombo described the weekend being fun-filled with a mix of sports — football, jogging and aerobics, as well as psychosocial sessions. Each girl was encouraged to identify short-term, achievable changes that with help, she could make.

Communication and team-building exercises helped to give them confidence to speak of their traumas and experiences. They were able to open up about why they had left home and come to the streets in Durban.

Their stories spoke of running away from sexual and physical abuse, from traditional tribal ceremonies and exploitation; and of being rejected when they had tried to return home. One young woman described how she had defended herself against a sexual assault, only to be charged with culpable homicide and given six months in prison. "I was punished for standing up for myself against violent, sexual abuse. There is nowhere for me to go now. The abuser did not get jail."

The streets further strip these young women of their humanity and self-worth. They explain that to return home with nothing brings shame. And it is this mixture of shame, betrayal, guilt, confusion and embarrassment that makes them stay on the streets. At the end of the weekend the girls asked for more camps like this one. For the chance to, simply be, women and girls, and not street children. For the chance to be together to share their experiences with others in the same situation, who will listen without judgement.

Mpendulo reflects, "Street children are usually shown in terms of the tragedy of their lives — which is true — but there is also another dimension: their wisdom, dignity and enormous capacity for survival and radical hope. The greatest challenge of working with street girls and young women is that their notion of fear has been so compromised and watered-down by their life experiences, it has led them to make destructive life choices. Rebuilding and reconnecting their emotions and feelings, which have been so long suppressed and shattered, is at the core of our work with them. We want to help them move towards making choices that provide hope, no matter how little, or big, this hope may be."

And hope comes as the girls and young women at the camp set themselves goals to get help with identity documents, in making contact with extended family, to reduce their drug misuse and go to clinics for TB & HIV-testing. Hope comes as they learn how they can find an alternative to street life longer term.

The #metoo campaign speaks up for each street girl and young woman that our partners work with, who experience sexual abuse and exploitation at home and on the streets. My radical hope is that how these young women see themselves and how they are perceived, will change — no longer victims, they will become young women with dignity and possessing strength. On behalf of every girl that Umthombo works with: #METOO.

All of the young women in this article requested that their names were changed to protect their identities — which we have respected.

To find out more about Umthombo's work with street girls in South Africa, please visit amostrust.org/umthombo

LEFT
Some of dedicated staff team at Umthombo in Durban.
© Amos Trust/Jules Abensour

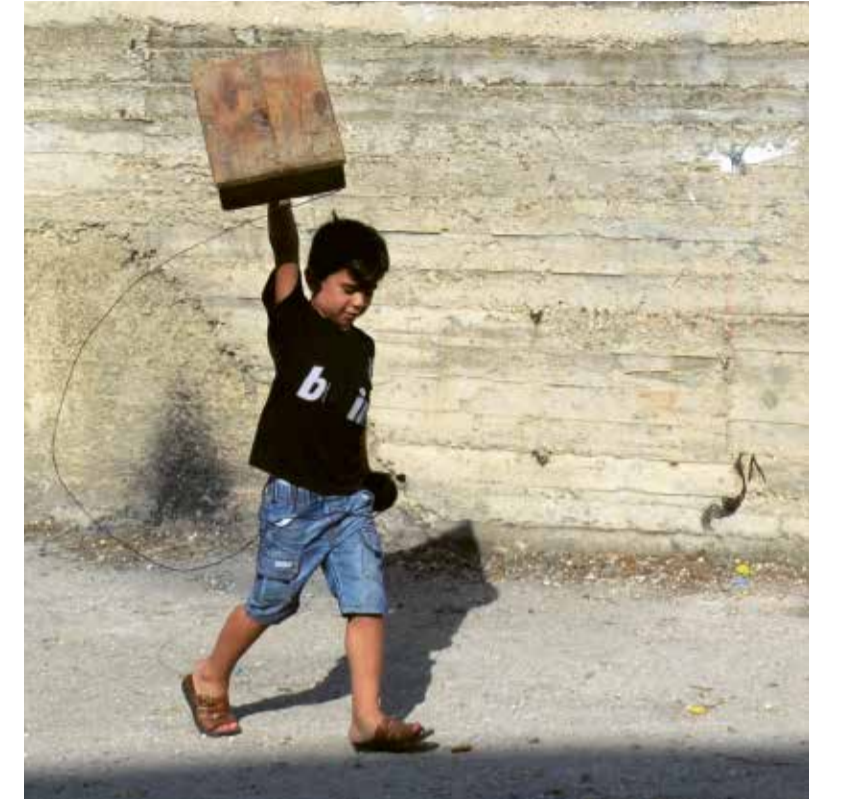
HOPE TASTES LIKE... BIG BROWN EYES AND A GORGEOUS SMILE

PHOTOGRAPH Mark Kensett

A young girl from a refugee camp in Bethlehem poses for the camera during the Amos Trust Palestine Experience trip — August 2017.

Image: © Amos Trust/Mark Kensett





CHANGE THE RECORD

OPPOSITE PAGE
Two boys play in the summer sun in a West Bank refugee camp. The illegal Israeli Separation Wall behind them is their playground.
Image: James Jagger

ABOVE LEFT
Mar Saba, a Christian monastery overlooking the Kidron Valley halfway between the Old City of Jerusalem and the Dead Sea
Image: Polly Bocconelli

ABOVE RIGHT
A young boy with his home-made toy — a simple wooden box, plays in the streets near his home, a refugee camp near Bethlehem.
Image: Rosie Paylor

ABOVE
An abandoned and burnt-out army watch tower under a bright blue sky — Aida refugee camp just outside Bethlehem.
Image: Michael Duke

ALL PHOTOGRAPHY: WEST BANK — AUGUST 2017
AS PART OF AMOS' PALESTINE EXPERIENCE TRIP
© 2017 Amos Trust/photographers

If you think you might be interested in joining next year's Palestine Experience summer trip, please email nick@amostrust.org



ABOVE: UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN — new Amos Trust Christmas cards for 2017

© Amos Trust/Nick Welsh

AMOS CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE TO ORDER NOW

AMOSTRUST.ORG/UNTO-US-A-CHILD-IS-BORN

As the situation in Gaza becomes ever more desperate, the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City is a place of peace. This year's Amos Christmas card features a mother and child who were attending the Nutritional Baby Unit at Al Ahli in June 2016. Sold as a pack of 10 with white envelopes, the message inside reads **Unto Us A Child Is Given**.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF THE CARDS WILL GO TOWARDS AMOS TRUST'S WORK IN GAZA.
#CHANGETHERECORD



There are now only three places available on our Nicaragua Adventure in 2018. Book yours now at amostrust.org/nicaragua-adventure-2018

19 FEBRUARY — 5 MARCH 2018

NICARAGUA ADVENTURE

WORDS Katie Hagley
PHOTOGRAPHY Laura Cook

PRICE:
£1,600 INCLUDING RETURN FLIGHTS
amostrust.org/nicaragua-adventure-2018

Join us for a Nicaraguan Adventure. Enjoy the vibrancy and colours of Nicaragua, savour the food, hear its music and poetry, visit its markets, volcanoes, lagoons and beaches. But more importantly roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty as we help build much needed microdams and nurseries alongside the communities we support.

Described as 'THE THREAT OF A GOOD IDEA', Nicaragua is one of the most beautiful, yet poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere — a country experiencing the onslaught of climate change, whose past has been dominated by its neighbours and whose future seems outside its control.

Throughout its history, NICARAGUA has struggled with natural disasters, climate change, deforestation and political upheaval. But with the emergence of small grass-roots organisations, its people are becoming empowered, championing equality, developing inclusive theology, and maintaining a culture that sees art and poetry as the norm for everyone.

AMOS TRUST has worked with our partner CEPAD for over 25 years and we are currently partnering with them over a 5-year period to empower seven communities in TEUSTEPE. Working closely with each community, CEPAD teaches them new skills and facilitates the development of community resilience, by helping them to begin to identify and address their own problems. By the time we visit in 2018, they will be 3 years into the 5-year cycle presenting a wonderful opportunity to see the difference your support is making, to see hope in action and to work alongside these communities.

So join us and see how local communities are challenging climate change, one community at a time. Meet young people learning to lead the change, inspirational women setting up micro-enterprises, families transforming ruined land and local leaders whose faith leads to action.

Join us as we walk with CEPAD and the communities they work alongside — as we're taken to the heart of what it means to 'be' community, seeing liberation theology lived out on a daily basis and learning the power of hope teamed with determination. You will have the chance to:

- experience day-to-day life, staying with the communities we support
- roll up your sleeves and get your hands' dirty building micro dams and nurseries alongside village members
- savour the food, cook and eat within the community
- enjoy the vibrancy and colours of this beautiful country
- hear its music and poetry
- visit its markets, volcanoes, lagoons and beaches.

This trip is half board and includes return flights from LONDON HEATHROW to MANAGUA, NICARAGUA. Prices are based on two people sharing. Single rooms are available on payment of a supplement.

We ask that all participants raise £500 towards the costs of implementing the community projects that we will be working on. You will be given support and resources to help you fundraise.

To find out more about this amazing trip and to book your place, please visit amostrust.org/nicaragua-adventure-2018 — but please hurry, we only have three places available. For further details, please contact katie@amostrust.org

SAMI AWAD HOLY LAND TRUST

QUESTIONS Nick Welsh

Sami Awad is Executive Director of Holy Land Trust — one of our main partners in Palestine. Here he talks about the projects that we work on together and some of his plans for the future.

HOW ARE THINGS IN BETHLEHEM RIGHT NOW?

Things in BETHLEHEM continue to be increasingly challenging for the local Palestinian population. Restrictions on movement in and out of the city, especially to Jerusalem, the twin city of Bethlehem (due to the checkpoints, road blocks and the Separation Wall); and the inability to expand and build on land owned by residents in areas that are under Israeli military control, together with the illegal settlements surrounding Bethlehem, are all resulting in a tremendous strain and tension within the community itself.

With a growing population and no space for housing and businesses, the situation is getting heavier on the peoples of the city and region in general. Added to this is the growing unemployment rate due to the occupation, where Bethlehem now has the highest unemployment rate in the West Bank.

DO YOU HAVE HOPE FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA?

The situation as it stands today is hopeless, there is no horizon that can be seen for any change to come in the near future. That said, the growing number of young people who are looking for new and creative alternatives for freedom and ending the occupation gives me hope.

Also to see the general feeling that people are giving up on the hopes of the Oslo Peace Process and asking what are the alternative solutions brings me hope as well.

Finally, to see the growing number of Palestinian woman asking for their voice and vision to be heard for the future gives me hope too.

WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS DOES HOLY LAND TRUST AND AMOS TRUST WORK ON TOGETHER?

With Amos Trust we have many projects that we are proud of. The HOME REBUILDING PROGRAMME is a joint activity to rebuild Palestinian homes that have been demolished by the Israeli military. We also work on the BET LAHEM LIVE FESTIVAL together. The Festival brings the themes of justice, faith and art through workshops, lectures, an open street market and artistic performances, in a four-day summer festival that takes place on one of the most ancient streets in the city, Star Street.

The TASTE OF PALESTINE culinary tour that introduces participants to the rich foods of the Palestinian community is also very exciting. We also facilitate many of the political fact-finding, pilgrimage and volunteer delegations that Amos brings to the region every year.

WE WERE SORRY TO HEAR THAT YOU DECIDED TO POSTPONE BET LAHEM LIVE FESTIVAL THIS YEAR. WHY WAS THAT?

The Festival is usually held in August. This past August was marked with protests and demonstrations in Jerusalem after the Israeli authorities placed restrictions on Muslims wanting to pray in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Many of these protests were non-violent but the Israeli army responded in violence that resulted in several Palestinians losing their lives and many more were injured. We decided at that time, that as much as it is a national event, the timing in such moments of pain was not appropriate and we decided to postpone the Festival until September.

“We are organising the Sumud Freedom Tour for December — an experience where participants join this very unique non-violent education and activism programme to learn and to volunteer in direct non-violent action supporting the Palestinian movement, especially in the Southern Hebron Hills.”

SAMI AWAD

Sami's UK tour in brief:

LONDON – Monday 4 December
Amos Advent Bethlehem Carol Service
St. James's Piccadilly

LEEDS – Tuesday 5 December
A Change The Record event with
Yorkshire Friends of Sabeel

MANCHESTER – Wednesday 6 December
Sami will be in conversation with Israel/
Palestine blogger Robert Cohen

CANTERBURY – Thursday 7 December
Amos Trust Canterbury Carol Service
St. Peter's Methodist Church

BRISTOL – Saturday 9 December
Amos Trust Bristol Carol Service
St. Mary Redcliffe Church

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON RIGHT NOW?

We are working on many activities now. One of the biggest is the SUMUD FREEDOM CAMP. In the Southern Hebron Hills, we have been working with a coalition of Palestinian, Israeli and international organisations to create the space for families that were evicted by the Israeli military over 20 years ago, to return to their homes.

This for us, combines both a direct non-violent action and the building of communities. The Israeli army has raided and destroyed the camp three times and many of the activists have been arrested and harassed.

Added to this, we are organising the Sumud Freedom Tour for December — an experience where participants join this very unique non-violent education and activism programme to learn and to volunteer in direct non-violent action supporting the Palestinian movement, especially in the Southern Hebron Hills.

In addition, we are part of a programme called WATER MATTERS that focuses on addressing the injustice of water distribution and management in the Jordan Valley, specifically in the areas between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea where Jordan and Israel (and recently the Palestinians were added), signed an agreement to divert water from the Red Sea to the

Dead Sea. This will have many implications on all the people living in the region. We are training all sides in leadership and non-violence, so that they have a strong and just voice when it comes to the future of the area.

We continue in our training in non-violence, leadership, and collective trauma healing. In addition we organise opportunities for many groups and delegations that come through HOLY LAND TRUST to learn about the current political reality on the ground.

WHAT WAS THE LAST CD YOU BOUGHT?

PILGRIM HEART by Krishna Das

WHAT WAS THE LAST BOOK YOU READ?

HIDDEN HISTORIES – PALESTINE AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN by Basem L. Ra'd

IF YOU WERE GOING TO COOK US A PALESTINIAN MEAL, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

An amazing Palestinian barbeque with all the mezza you can imagine.

Sami will be visiting the UK between 4th – 9th December to speak at various Amos events in London, Leeds, Manchester, Canterbury and Bristol. For full details, please visit amostrust.org/sami-2017



ABOVE LEFT
Amos and Holy Land Trust work on several projects together including creative trips to refugee camps in and around Bethlehem.
© Amos Trust/Mark Kensett

ABOVE RIGHT
Home demolitions are one of the very worst aspects of the Israeli Occupation. We take UK volunteers over to Palestine to help rebuild demolished homes.
© Amos Trust/James Jagger



LEFT
The annual Bet Lahem Live Festival grew from a conversation between Sami, ourselves and our friends at Greenbelt Arts Festival. Now it's a creative mix of art, faith and justice that spills out onto the streets of Bethlehem.
© Amos Trust/Mark Kensett

To watch our short film about Holy Land Trust, please visit vimeo.com/amostrust/holylandtrust



AMOS ADVENT BETHLEHEM CAROL SERVICE LONDON 2017

Monday 4th December, 7.00pm — doors from 6.30pm °

ST JAMES'S PICCADILLY, LONDON

Join us for our annual Advent Bethlehem Carol Service with guest speaker Sami Awad from Holy Land Trust and special musical guests including Vox Holloway Choir, Julia Katarina, Hawiya Dabke dance group plus a celebration of Just Walk to Jerusalem.

#changetherecord

PRICE: £7/£5

FOR TICKETS, PLEASE VISIT AMOSTRUST.ORG/CAROL-SERVICE-2017

° NO EARLIER PLEASE, THANK YOU.

AMOS TRUST DIARY 2018

Amos trips and events are open to everyone. Join us as we challenge injustice, build hope and create positive change.

For further details please visit our website at amostrust.org/diary

4 – 9 DECEMBER 2017

SAMI AWAD TOUR

amostrust.org/sami-2017

Join Sami, Executive Director of Holy Land Trust, at events in London, Leeds, Manchester, Canterbury and Bristol.

19 FEBRUARY – 5 MARCH 2018

NICARAGUA ADVENTURE

amostrust.org/nicaragua-adventure-2018

Enjoy the vibrancy and colours of this beautiful country on this unique trip.

20 – 25 MARCH 2018

PALESTINE MARATHON

amostrust.org/palestine-marathon-2018

Now in its sixth year, the Palestine Marathon in Bethlehem was set up to raise awareness of the fact that you can't run 26 miles in the 'Little Town' without going through a checkpoint.

26 – 29 MAY 2018

TEAM AMOS CYCLE RIDE LONDON – PARIS

amostrust.org/london-paris-2018

Cycle from London to Paris over four days with the Amos Road Club. Join us as we ride and raise funds for our partners in India, Tanzania, South Africa, Burundi, Palestine and Nicaragua.

29 JULY 2018

RIDE LONDON-SURREY 100 LONDON – SURREY

amostrust.org/ride-london-surrey-2018

The Prudential Ride London-Surrey 100 starts in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and follows a 100-mile route on closed roads through the capital and into Surrey's stunning countryside.

THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER

AMOS IN CANTERBURY
AMOS CANTERBURY CAROL SERVICE

7.00PM
(DOORS FROM 6.30PM)

ST. PETER'S METHODIST CHURCH,
ST. PETER'S STREET, CANTERBURY

Join us in welcoming our very special guest speaker Sami Awad, Executive Director of Holy Land Trust in Bethlehem.

The service will also feature singer-songwriter and Amos Trust Founder Garth Hewitt, St. Paul's Choir and a celebration of Just Walk to Jerusalem. Please join us for refreshments after the service.

SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER

AMOS IN BRISTOL
AMOS BRISTOL CAROL SERVICE

7.30PM
(DOORS FROM 7PM)

ST. MARY REDCLIFFE CHURCH,
REDCLIFFE WAY, BRISTOL

In Bristol, Sami and Garth will be joined by very special guests Partsong, one of Bristol's best-known acapella choirs. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Donations from all three Amos carol services will go to our Christmas Appeal which this year will be supporting Palestinian peace activists in the West Bank and Gaza.



Tickets for the Canterbury and Bristol carol services are free but we would ask you to register by visiting amostrust.org/carol-service-2017

HOLY LAND TRUST

“PEACE ISN’T JUST ABOUT FINDING A POLITICAL SOLUTION. IT’S ABOUT COMMUNITY, THE EMPOWERMENT OF A COMMUNITY TO BE ABLE TO SAY ENOUGH IS ENOUGH”.
SAMI AWAD, DIRECTOR, HOLY LAND TRUST.

The community of Um al-Khair in the South Hebron Hills, has seen their land taken by the adjacent Israeli settlement of Carmel — homes have been demolished and Israel refuses to allow then running water or electricity.

HOLY LAND TRUST is shining a light on this community this Christmas, as they stand with them against the constant threat of eviction. Iman’s family have lived in Um al-Khair for generations. She finds winters particularly difficult because she relives the trauma of her home being demolished in the winter of 2014.

Her son was just five months old when Iman received a phone call telling her that the Israeli Defence Force were on their way to destroy her home. She had just enough time to take her family’s personal belongings.

Iman said,
“My life is in Um al-Khair. It is not an easy life but I cannot leave. Sometimes I have panic attacks because I see my dream broken. I believe, like my father did, that we have the right to live without the constant threat of demolition, to have enough clean water, to have good houses that we can live in during all seasons, and for all of us to live without fear”.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2017

“Solidarity is the heart of the Christmas story and for those living under a brutal occupying force — it is invaluable.”

WORDS Azey Bennetts & Chris Rose
PHOTOGRAPHY Nick Welsh

BELOW
A Mother and child attending the Nutritional Baby Unit at Al Ahli Hospital, Gaza City — June 2016



To watch ‘A Place of Peace’, our short film about Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, please visit vimeo.com/amostrust/a-place-of-peace

AL AHLI HOSPITAL GAZA

When Johaina’s daughter was born, she named her Ghazal (my little Finch). After their home was destroyed in the 2014 assault on Gaza, they moved in with Johaina’s brother and in-laws. Three years later they are still there, three families in three rooms, with only 2-3 hours of electricity a day. Ghazal is now 7, she is withdrawn, anxious, doesn’t eat and hates going to school. Johaina’s in-laws blame her for how her daughter is and she blames herself.

AL AHLI has identified that both Johaina and Ghazal are suffering from on-going traumatic stress and are providing them both with psychosocial support. Ghazal has made rapid progress and now enjoys the hospital’s Days of Joy programme, which draws together children from the areas most affected in the 2014 conflict. It provides a day of team building, laughter and fun, and an opportunity for the social work team to pick up with individual children and make sure that they are coping.

Despite home demolitions, ongoing movement restrictions and intolerable living conditions, the people in Gaza and the South Hebron Hills remain steadfast (sumud), in their hope for freedom, peace and justice and ask for us to stand with them.

Solidarity is the heart of the Christmas story. For those living under a brutal occupying force, it is invaluable. It takes our time, it requires our effort and it needs our financial support now more than ever we need to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine.

To give, please visit amostrust.org/christmas-appeal or use the form opposite.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2017

THE AMOS 2017 CHRISTMAS APPEAL IS FOR:

AL AHLI HOSPITAL IN GAZA CITY

Their work to address the trauma of women and children in Gaza City and building resilience and rekindling hope.

HOLY LAND TRUST IN BETHLEHEM

As they seek to keep hope alive for the villages in the South Hebron Hills.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION NOW:

- £10 will pay for a one-on-one session of psychosocial support at Al Alhi
- £20 will give a child the chance to smile and laugh at one of Al Alhi’s DAYS OF JOY
- £50 will support Holy Land Trust’s community activists in Um al-Khair
- £80 will meet the costs for a course of psychosocial support at Al Alhi Hospital.

To make your donation please use this form or visit amostrust.org/christmas-appeal

THANK YOU

To find out more about our work in Palestine, please visit amostrust.org/palestine

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2017

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF AMOS TRUST

- I/We enclose a one-off contribution of £
 I/We would like to give regularly to Amos Trust and have completed the Standing Order form

PLEASE USE THESE FUNDS FOR

- Amos Christmas Appeal 2017 Amos Trust General Funds Amos Street Child
 Amos Palestine Amos Communities I/We would like a receipt
 I/We would like to receive WORDS OF HOPE E-NEWS

ABOUT YOU

TITLE _____ NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____
TELEPHONE _____
EMAIL _____

STANDING ORDER FORM

TO THE BANK MANAGER _____ YOUR BANK _____
POSTCODE _____
Please debit my/our account
ACCOUNT NO. _____ SORT CODE _____
WITH THE SUM OF £ _____ EACH MONTH / QUARTER / YEAR (delete as applicable)
STARTING ON DD / MM / YYYY _____

And pay this sum to Amos Trust

ACCOUNT NO. 10939419 SORT CODE 16-20-30 BANK RBS, 10 NORTH ST, GUILDFORD, GU1 4AF
SIGNATURE _____ DATE DD / MM / YYYY _____

PAYMENT METHODS

CHEQUES (payable to Amos Trust). We also accept charity vouchers.
CREDIT / DEBIT CARD To donate by card, please visit amostrust.org/give
STANDING ORDER To give a regular gift, please complete the standing order form above or visit amostrust.org/give — or if you would prefer to talk to us about making a donation, please call the office on 020 7588 2638 during normal office hours.

GIFT AID DECLARATION — DONATIONS TO AMOS TRUST

Please GIFT AID this donation and any I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years
I confirm I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income tax and/or Capital Gains Tax then the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE DD / MM / YYYY _____

PLEASE NOTIFY AMOS TRUST IF YOU:
Want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address; no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND DONATION TO:

Amos Trust, St Clement’s, 1 St Clement’s Court TELEPHONE: +44 (0) 20 7588 2638
London EC4N 7HB, United Kingdom EMAIL: office@amostrust.org
Registered charity no. 1164234 WEBSITE: amostrust.org



AMOS TRUST CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2017

— STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE



“Another world is not only possible, she is on her way.
On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.”

ARUNDHATI ROY’S extract taken from the JUST WALK TO JERUSALEM
liturgy that was read each morning of Just Walk.

Please help us make another world possible this Christmas by supporting
our work in Palestine. Simply visit AMOSTRUST.ORG/CHRISTMAS-APPEAL
or use the form on page 23.

THANK YOU

#CHANGETHERECORD

