

To: HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL  
From: Helen Fairbanks  
Re: Preschool Education Program--Final Report

Tomorrow is the day we leave to return to the states but before I can begin packing, I need to prepare this final report. In an effort to get some fresh reactions about the program, I asked Fatina to give the six questions to the teachers at the last in-service meeting. Because of the tense situation at the time of the anniversaries the replies were slow coming so Fatina said that they only said what she had already written. I told her that I'd like to have the teachers' replies, also, but she did not translate them so I'm having a friend translate them for me and I will add them, unedited, at the end of the report. I decided that the only way I can get this done is to type the notes I have and let you, Pat, use it for your report wherever it fits.

The language barrier prevents my getting many verbal comments so I have to rely mostly on my observations when I do have an opportunity to visit the camps. For me, the most important benefit is that 368 four year old children have the advantage of six months of structured, psychologically and developmentally appropriate lessons in the warm encouraging environment of (his) own home. In most cases the mothers' program teachers have had more training than the play center teacher. Often this part-time teacher is a university student earning money to continue her education so she is eager to perfect her own teaching techniques. The benefits to the 368 mothers is so important that I know this will be mentioned in the reports.

An additional benefit is that every month five more salaries improve the economic climate of each camp. This is very important to the teachers who are involved--so much so that when we say that something in the program is not being handled as it should be, they immediately improve the performance. For example, I noticed that fewer mothers were attending the graduation for one reason or another. The four year olds were being brought by older sisters. When I emphasized that this was a mothers program and I expected them at the graduation the attendance improved at the next graduation. I also noticed that several children did not attend graduation. This attendance improved after I complained about it.

As I attended one graduation, a teacher in the program began to tell me, without my having asked, "This program is very good for our children. The children learn to talk better. The stories teach them how to speak in sentences. Knowing the colors and shapes helps them when they start to school. There are many good things they learn."

Because the children have become accustomed to the way that teachers behave and conduct classes, their entrance to school is less traumatic. The child comes into a familiar atmosphere to a teacher that he met at his graduation. I already written to you about my conversation with the head teacher, Amneh, at the Shofat camp. I asked her what percentage of the five

year old children in the camp were in our program. She said that the easiest way to figure was that the first grade had two hundred forty pupils that year so only about twenty-five percent could be in the mothers' program. She went on to tell me that the first grade teachers vie to have pupils who have been in the mission's two preschool programs for their classes because these pupils have been taught to reason better, thinking before they answer and following directions better even than pupils who pay a high tuition fee for the kindergarten they attend.

Two weeks ago we visited George Tamari, Head of the Department of Social Welfare at UNRWA. He told us that the Mother's program and play centers are very important for the children in the refugee camps. They make the transition from the home to school so much easier for the children.

He went on to explain that education of the refugees will be cut back as money is getting tighter yet, now when more Palestinian women are working outside their homes, they need to have the existing programs extended and even nurseries added for the children of working mothers.

"Everyone recognizes the value of early childhood education," he continued, "and it is unfortunate that it must be handled by volunteers who must change so frequently. Work this valuable should be a part of UNRWA's regular on-going educational program."

"As I study the reports from the refugee camps, I am impressed with the good work being done in the camps by the Holy Land Christian Mission and by the Quakers. Their lesson material and the quality of their programs is better than others and is really helping the littlest children."

## MOTHERS' PROGRAM REPORT

The mothers' program is a very useful tool for the mother to be more involved with her children. In a large family the mother is satisfied with her role if she just prepares food and cleans for the family. But by this program she has an opportunity for strengthening the relationship with her children by knowing more about new methods of how to deal with her child and the right language to be used in her communication with them. If we looked back to the mothers role before and after her involvement in the program it is easy to notice the difference i.e. in term of losing patience with the child's questions but now she understands more that he/she has the right to ask and to be answered too in a friendly way.

It was previously reported that a few years ago the mothers took this program lightly and asked question such as can a four year old child learn? What can be learned? Now the picture is different after they felt and saw what their children can learn and can accomplish. Now they make sure that their children are registered in the program.

The following points can be accomplished through this program:

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- a. Train the child how to think logically in their thinking and to differentiate between similar and different things.
  - b. Train them to compare between different shapes.
  - c. Train them to concentrate and notice the incomplete or complete shapes.
  - d. Train them to develop the ability of practicing several practices such as drawing and using colors.
  - e. Evaluate the ability of children for learning and their readiness for school.

From all of the above we can say that it is necessary to continue with the program.

In reference to the mother, she feels that she accomplished something for her children by sharing them, teaching them and making their time valuable instead of spending their time without utilization. We have a saying that the first school is the mother.

From the point of view of the kindergarten school teacher, we can draw the following:

- a. Children who joined the mothers' program are more willing to join the kindergarten.
- b. They show more cooperation with the teacher in the classroom.
- c. They don't show fear of shyness.
- d. Demonstrate their ability to understand quickly.
- e. Respect and obey the rules of the classroom.

From this we conclude that this program laid the ground for them to enter the kindergarten.

This program is programmed in a way that the mother and child can benefit from it to the limit. Also, children are eager to see their teacher visiting their homes to start with them a new class.

From my regular visits with the teachers to the homes noticed that the teachers are taking care of everything

needed by the children throughout the program such as story-books, crayons, glue and scissors, etc. Also, mothers are very cooperative in taking care of the above tools throughout the program.

The problem that we are facing now is the high enrollment by the mothers. We are forced to put a limit of how many mothers we can take each semester and give priority to the new mothers who previously enrolled in such a program to use what she learned with her younger children if she has no opportunity to join the program.

I can include that the fathers are happy with the program and show their appreciation by keeping up with it by helping their child and taking care of all tools used in the program.

My overall evaluation to this program is: It is a very good service to those children who live in camps and it is a very nice thing to have to elevate some of the suffering of those children.

Cordially I called on the nice people who contribute to this program not to let it down.

Fatima Shuqerat

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## MOTHERS' PROGRAM EVALUATION AT AIDA CAMP

This program has a great influence on every child at the camp, whereas, a child in the camp found a great benefit and a great care from this wonderful program.

Frankly, in the past, the child was spending his free time wandering in the streets doing nothing and everyone knows how much problems, difficulties and bad results were happened before this program was already opened. Now every child gets a great care and attention and feels that there is something useful and related to him. However, he cares for his school books, papers and everything given to him by his school teacher.

There became a great relation between the mother and her child; she cares for him and gives him a great attention. She reminds him to do his duty and his homework. She also explains, teaches him and spends a long time with him. While in the past she was neglecting him and cares for her younger child. So by this great attention from the mother, the child is now spending most of the time reading, writing, drawing at his home instead of wandering in the streets getting harm for him and his family.

While according to the kindergarten children, I found a great difference between the children who have the chance to attend this program and the children who haven't attended it. According to the first group, we see that they are well prepared for the kindergarten whereas the kindergarten is something expected and exciting to him. While the children of the second group, the kindergarten will be something strange, fearful and uninteresting to them. They expect to be beaten and hit from the teachers. In addition to that, it will be too difficult for them to accept the new concepts and understandings. While the others from the first group it will be easy to accept and comprehend more concepts.

The most important things are the advantages that were acquired from the program. There was a complete order in everything especially the time order; the child was coming in the right and exact time, preparing himself for the lesson and for the class with full activity.

The child who has a bad chance to attend the program and whose brother attended this program, I think he will probably get used from the papers and lessons of his brother. As well as, the mother will have a great benefit and a great ability to teach and explain the good things to her other children.

According to the illiterate mothers, they are proud of their children and they also feel that they offered them whatever they need and feel they could give as the learned mother can give her children. The fathers, too, are now proud of their children and listen happily to their answers and reward them by giving gifts which encourages them to continue and go on with their studies.

Some fathers were treating their children badly if they did mistakes. So the teachers of the program were interfering and guiding their illiterate fathers to better ways and these teachers were able to change some habits and manners for some families and lead them to the good ways.

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We noticed, also, that there was a great competition between the neighbors and this, as I think, lead to an encouragement.

Truthfully, this program has many advantages for every child in the camp and I hope it to be continued and expanded. In addition to that, we all offer our thanks to the ones who led this program successfully.

Nuwara Jabreel

Head Teacher in Mothers' Program and also the Kindergarten teacher.

## MOTHERS' PROGRAM EVALUATION AT ARROWD CAMP

This program was begun five years ago. It was a wonderful idea, whereas the program has a great influence and a great benefit for all the children and for the mothers at the camp. The aim of the program is positive and good. There are many good points for this program and they are as follows \_\_\_\_\_ .

1. To accustom the children to think logically and orderly and in well arranged thinking.
2. To accustom the children to have the ability to compare between different forms.
3. To accustom them how to concentrate and scrutinize on the tiny things; "to recognize the incomplete from the complete and the perfect things."
4. To have the ability for the practical training; "to draw and use the colors for different forms."
5. To measure their abilities and their school readiness.

This program from the educational point of view is very good and has to be continued.

The mother in this program feels that she has confidence in herself and very proud because she thinks she can offer a great service for her children at home. This great benefit is being seen by the kindergarten teacher during the scholastic year who can see the difference between the children who attend the program and the ones who don't attend it.

Here are some points that are being noticed by the teacher.

1. The great acceptance for the kindergarten from those who attend the mothers' program.
2. The great cooperation and the great understanding with the kindergarten teacher.
3. Being away from the fear and the shyness.
4. A quicker comprehension and understanding.
5. Being accustomed to order and direction.

From the above mentioned points, we notice that the program has a great influence and a great benefit on the children. Every one from the Kindergarten teachers on notices that and encourages the mothers to send their children to attend the program for the good results that the children get from it. Whereas, this program reflects their good behavior at the school and outside it.

The thing that shows the value and the greatness of this program is the many mothers coming to try to register their sons and daughters in this program and try to be the first in registering to have a place for their children. Also, some mothers try to buy and accomplish whatever their children need and to prepare a good atmosphere for their studies.

Also, a great encouragement is received from the fathers themselves who encourage their wives to attend the program with their children.

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Education is not for one group, it is for all. From my visits to some families, I notice the great reception from the families and the neighbors who come quickly to welcome me. So this means the great acceptance for the program.

This program is very good and has a great influence on everybody in the camp. We all hope to have it continued and offer many thanks for the ones who give and are still giving good attention to our children, our mothers and to everyone.

Thanks a lot,

Laila

Laila Sarhan is the Head teacher and also teaches in the UNRWA school.

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## MOTHERS EVALUATION AT FAWWAR CAMP

The program has many valuable and precious benefits and advantages on our children because it ~~gives~~ gives the child his chance to show his skill, wishes, hopes and his abilities, and also teaches him many great things that weren't known to him before. Also many of the uneducated and unlearned mothers learn how to write and read and be aware of some new concepts and ideas that they don't ever hear or know before such as the forms, differences, similarities in number, kind, color and many other things and activities. The mother gets benefit and information from the teacher and then applies it and teaches it to her child and directs him to the right and good way.

By this program the child learns many new things such as how to use the pencil, the colours and how to behave well and respect the others around him. Also he learns how to recognize the things and count the numbers although he is ignorant of these things before attending the program. The child is given healthy and social habits, how to take care of his clothes and his body and be cleaned all the time. Also many good activities are given to him that keeps him thinking all the time. The program prepares the child for the kindergarten.

There is a big difference between the children who attend the program and the ones who don't attend it. The child who attends the program comprehends the curriculum more easily than the one who doesn't have the chance to attend it.

The program has got encouragement from all the families in the camp. They were waiting anxiously for the day and the time to send their children to attend this program because they felt that it is very useful to them and they can acquire good experience and this program prepares them to enter the kindergarten then to the school.

All the children are encouraged and are taking care and keeping the program things in bags away from the hands of their younger brothers. Now, the child has a great confidence in himself and also proud of what he does.

This program is encouraged by the fathers too, although there was an objection at the beginning. They are all proud of it for the good results they have found and they also encourage their wives to share and attend this program. Many neighbours come and attend the lesson then apply it on their children who have not the chance to share in this program.

We all, the teachers, the mothers, the children thank everyone who offers his help, does his best, and gives many great benefits to our children, mothers and neighbours

With respect to you all

Thank you very much

Maleeha Al Maghaleh  
Head Teacher

## MOTHERS PROGRAM EVALUATION AT DEIR ANMAR CAMP

We, the teachers, began this mothers program four years ago. We found a great and a big difference. In the past, the children were coming and entering the kindergarten without having the knowledge, as well as, they were ignorant of everything around them. It was too difficult for the teachers to give them new ideas and concepts, and they were spending a long time trying hard to let the children acquire the habits and the useful words. While after entering and encouraging the children to attend the program we found a great help that helped the kindergarten teachers to give more new ideas and more things that are suitable for the kindergarten class and for their age.

The program has many advantages. The love of the children for this program encouraged them to acquire and gain more new things and information that are useful to them. The child now is used to meet the teacher weekly. I think that he will be happy and be encouraged to continue his studies. This program removes the fear of the child for the school and it will not be strange and difficult to him.

Teaching the children in this program how to respect the others around them and how to be orderly, respect their manners inside the class and outside it. As well as, the teachers will find a great cooperation from these children who attended the program.

Also we found a great cooperation from both the mother and the father by taking care of their child. This gave us a great help and a great benefit. Otherwise, some of the mothers were unlearned and they were given help from their husbands when they found any difficulties in teaching and explaining to their children. So by this way we see that the child and the mother can acquire some knowledge at the same time.

The yearly revolution and training helps us to see many children in the camp. And so some children get the chance to attend the program and obtain their chance from the education, while some others lose this opportunity because the number of children we take for the program is not too much., 8 children for each teacher. But we find that the mothers get benefits from their children who attend the program and be able to teach their children without getting any help from the teacher. Also the neighbors try very hard to get knowledge from the ones who attend this program to teach their children who didn't have the chance to attend it.

So this program has great benefits and advantages in teaching and giving the children some new concepts and ideas before entering the school.

We are all happy for this program and hope to be continued in giving help to our children to know their environment and be aware of the situation around them and be a good generation in the future.

Safieh El Shobaki  
Head Teacher

Kansas City

To: HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN MISSION INTERNATIONAL  
From: UNRWA and PEP  
Re: Report for May-June 1983

May is the month of last things for our work here. Early in the month at the in-service meeting, we gave the teachers the last lessons so that they would have plenty of time to prepare their material. On the sixth we had the last graduation for the Mothers' program. At the Arrowb camp they had had problems so it was necessary to postpone the graduation ceremony but the teachers continued the lessons with their new classes from the time the first term ended.

We also had our last teachers' trip on May thirteenth when all teachers and aides were invited to go on the bus to the Sea of Galilee for a picnic at the park, then a trip around the north end of the lake, down to Tibereas and over the mountains to Nazareth. Most of them visited the Church of the Annunciation during the stop and after a brief stop in Nabalus, we began leaving off teachers at Ramallah. There was a good spirit among the teachers although everyone was sorry that Fatina's doctor said that she should not ride that far.

DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS After the trip Fatina checked at Deir Ammar about one Arab girl that I did not recognize. I had said that unless the person was on our UNRWA or PEP payroll, she could not go on the trip. Safieh, Head Teacher, said that the girl was a substitute for Sn'ad who had a death in her family. We took away a day's salary for her disobedience in bringing the girl. Later in the month, Sn'ad made a trip to Bethlehem to tell us that Safieh's story was not true and that she didn't want her name used in the deception. Safieh had spoken very flippantly of the whole incident to Fatina so we decided that her unprofessional attitude and insubordination merited receiving a first warning that her behavior as a teacher was unsatisfactory. Fatina and Miriam gave her the note telling her that her example as a Head Teacher showed disrespect for authority. She agreed that she deserved the reprimand and said that she would learn from receiving it.

In another incident where I also encouraged Fatina to "Get together with disobedience," we went to the Fawwar camp at 12:20 to find that the pupils had been dismissed, the rooms cleaned and the teacher/aide ready to leave. Fatina reminded them that they are expected to dismiss at one and clean the play center after that. Their excuse was that they were both not feeling well. I replied that they should have finished the day anyway. Then they argued that the UNRWA schools close a little early on Thursdays but we said that is not our schedule so we took half a day's pay from each one.

SUPERVISORS' MEETING In the meeting with Fatina and Miriam, Fatina's assistant, who will begin work for us on July first, I introduced all of the duties and the record books they will use for each job. All of this was familiar to Fatina and I will give her my books with many examples that she can copy. I also stressed that each must prove her

ability to handle the new responsibility satisfactorily and that being "tough" enough to hold the teachers to giving good work is an important part of the job. They have taken over some of the leadership already.

IN-SERVICE The June in-service meeting was different because we had Jacqueline Sfeir, a doctoral candidate at Colorado State University in pre-school education and the daughter of a Bethlehem medical doctor, as the morning speaker. This was followed by a farewell party for the Fairbanks.

CURRICULUM Completing the curriculum by Violet Zarou's finishing translating all of Week 28 and the rest of the reading books; Miriam's gluing the rest of the translated material in the books; and our xeroxing lessons for the next year with copies for Kansas City; together with translating that Fatina is doing has filled all of our time. We worked hard to get as much material as possible ready before the tour left on May twenty-fifth then to finish more to go with Mr. Clay on June eighth.

The Bethlehem lessons have been revised, reduced to the necessary seven weeks, re-written to be suitable for the opening of the school year and both the lessons and worksheets are completed in Arabic. Now, Fatina is racing the stork to get the seven weeks translated into English before I return to the states on June fifteenth. I will be eager to read them because, so far, the lessons are only in Arabic and I have to take her word that they are satisfactory. When she gets them translated, I will need to read them, check to make sure that they are complete, correct grammar and spelling then type and mail them to Kansas City. I told her that if she could just translate the Arabic, I can put them in shape at home in the states. I will probably wait to have them xeroxed in Kansas City as it will be less expensive for me. When these are completed, we will have copies of the thirty-five weeks of lessons in English and Arabic together with descriptions of all of the other materials for the curriculum in Kansas City as well as in Bethlehem. Inshallah!

PRINTING COST ESTIMATE FOR WORKSHEETS On Tuesday, June seventh, Jacqueline Sfeir took Fatina and me to the Terri Sancta High School for Boys in the Old City where she had had worksheets printed at a lower cost than any of the other places she had investigated. I enclosed a complete report of their offer in a memo to Patrick McDonnell with the material delivered by Mr. Clay. In addition to that information, I should add that they will need to have fifty per cent of the price when the order is given. Because this is a non-profit organization printing only educational materials they need the money to purchase the paper. We may have five or six more single sheets than on the original estimate to avoid problems with the pages that are cutting projects. These worksheets would be packaged by 500's so that the supervisors can easily distribute them as they now do with the lessons for the mothers' program.

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE The new office for the supervisor and her assistant is almost completed so I will move the files and other program material in before we leave. Fatina and Miriam are pleased with the new office and eager to do a good job.

It makes our leaving not quite so hard for me as if I had not trained Fatina for eighteen months and will continue to be interested that she fill the position satisfactorily.

For the two years we have served as volunteers, I have really appreciated this opportunity to use my educational expertise and experience to help the West Bank pre-schools. We have appreciated the fine cooperation we have received from the Clay's and all of the mission personnel. We feel that we'll continue to have friends in Kansas City and in Bethlehem. It is these friends who made our two years here as happy and personally profitable a learning time in the Holy Land.

Clarence and Helen Fairbanks

In 20 minutes we leave for the airport. I have many sheets yet to xerox so this will be my final report from here.

All of the curriculum materials have been mailed except the Bethlehem lessons in English. These I will have to finish at home and will mail them to you.

For the PWG account I purchased 9 envelopes a 10 Is - 90 IS. Xeroxed 5382 sheets.

*Helen Fairbanks*

## May - June Report

I will start this report as usual by reporting about our monthly activity and that is the monthly meeting for teachers and their aides. During the May meeting we continued our discussion about the new curriculum. The last lesson we handed out was the 2nd day from the week 25. I would like to point out that we are not able to finish the curriculum for the last three weeks for this year, but they are ready to be used next year since we have a 35 working week in the year and we received the material for a 28 week, therefore we reduced the 10 weeks we wrote into 7 weeks. Also, we decided to shift the sequence of the curriculum especially that part which we prepared here, and to be given at the beginning of the school year. We did this because we feel that it is more suitable for the children (it is drawn from their environment, easier, includes Arabic songs which they like). We gave these first 7 weeks the following titles: week A, B, . . . G. We did so to avoid confusion if we numerate them from 1 - 7 and then give the 28 weeks which we received from K. C. By doing so the curriculum is completed for the next year.

I would like to point out that rearranging the lessons, A through G takes time and work, we have to take into consideration the children's background, their knowledge, and logical sequence of concepts.

Now I am in the process of translating the curriculum of weeks A - G and the Fairbanks will type them and will mail them to K. C. as they requested. I hope that the results from using this curriculum will be better in the coming years.

In reference to child evaluation. I would like to observe that we did not do it for the following reasons:

- a. Most of our teachers aides are unable to manage the class while the teacher is doing the individual evaluation.
- b. The large number of children in most of the centers, so the teacher can not do it and ignore the rest of the children for many days.
- c. Teachers themselves have to be trained to carry this type of evaluation. Beside that I translated all the evaluation sheets into Arabic and they are ready to mail to Kansas City.

One of our major activities for this year was the trip to Tiberias passing through Jerico, the Jordan Valley, Nablus, and Ramallah. All teachers and aides were on that trip and everybody had a good time.

Our school year will be extended till June 15 so our June meeting will take place on June 6. I will use this meeting to remind and discuss with the teachers and aides the importance of leaving their centers clean as they can be. All pictures and drawings must be lifted from the walls. All toys must be arranged and kept in the cupboard or boxes. We must not forget the material for the curriculum. Put it in a safe place, you have to do so because you will use it next year. Before the school year ends, we will visit every center to be sure that what we told the teachers above is implemented. By doing so it will make it easier for next year.

During this week we will have a farewell gathering because our friends the Fairbanks will finish their services and leave us. I am pleased that I worked with them and I learned a lot from the long and rich experience of Mrs. Fairbanks in this field. We would like to thank the Fairbanks both for their good sincere services and everything they have done to make a child smile. Also, we appreciate the suffering and the problems they faced during their stay with us. Many salutes to them and to everybody who extended his warm hands to help our people and to try as much as he/she could to eliminate and reduce our suffering.

In reference to the Mothers Program, I am in the process of putting together the reports from the teachers of all aspects of this program such as its value and advantages to children before going to kindergarten. A full report will follow through Mrs Fairbanks as soon as I finish it.

I am expecting a baby around June 20th so I will be away from work for about a month, but before that Mrs. Fairbanks and I will train my new assistant to enable her to supervise the program during that period. I will be in close contact with her during my vacation to be sure that everything is going smoothly.

I hope that everything will be O.K. and under control all the time.

Fatina Shqueir

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