



Harvest

Summer 2023

Awareness Foundation: building peace through education

www.awareness-foundation.com



Aleppo



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

Earl Cadogan KBE DL 1937—2023

As the Awareness Foundation is celebrating this year the 20th anniversary of its ministry, we must say farewell to our founding Patron Lord Cadogan. Charles was one of the earliest people who believed wholeheartedly in the mission and vision of the Foundation. He used to call it “Our Foundation”.

I remember him talking about his memories visiting the Middle East especially Lebanon and how much he enjoyed the hospitality and generosity of the people there. Charles offered me personally and the Awareness Foundation an infinite amount of generosity and kindness. I never forget the joy that I saw in his eyes when we went to meet him and offered him the Golden Cross of the Foundation.



He thanked us warmly and renewed his commitment to support what we are doing especially helping the suffering young people and children in Syria and in Iraq. We will always remember with great affection his love and dedication for good causes thanking the Lord for his faith, great spirit of giving and caring. Charles will be greatly missed by us and all those who loved him.



We send Dorothy and the whole family our deepest condolences and assure them that Charles is in a better place. We pray that the Risen Lord may accept him in His eternal light and comfort our heart by His Holy Spirit.

The Executive Director Revd DR Nadim Nassar



The trip to Syria after Easter was not like any other trip we had before for the last 10 years. This time, there was a new factor that shocked not only the people of Syria but also the world. This factor was the horrible and devastating earthquake that hit the north and the northwest of Syria. The resulted was the death of thousands and many more thousands lost their homes and livelihood.

We went this time to support young people in this incredibly difficult time for them, for their families and their communities. Ambassadors for Peace programme was very different because we focused on helping young people to face their fear and trauma and listened to their heartbreaking stories. Their experiences of horror were quite different from all the ones they had lived during the war.

Christian young people in Syria feel abandoned and struggle with deep existential crisis. By the grace of God and the support of our friends, we were there for them and offered them a lifeline in their dark hours. We felt the grace of God touching those young hearts when they were able to open them up their hearts and express their fears in a lot of creative ways and methods.

For the first time we saw them crying and we saw their tears washing some of their pains that made them go through many sleepless nights. We promised them that we will continue to be with them as

Ambassadors for Peace

“Overcoming Fear & Temptation”

Aleppo, Syria



On our heartbreaking visit to Aleppo, Syria after more than 12 years of war and devastating earthquake, we were delighted to go there to be peacemakers and train young Ambassadors for Peace. We were hosted by the Armenian Protestant church of Bethel and the head of the denomination Revd Dr Haroution George Selimian who is a member of the International Board of Trustees of Awareness Foundation.

On Thursday, April 20, 2023, almost 60 young people attended Ambassadors for Peace programme from seven Christian denominations in Aleppo. We divided the participants into groups to lead different workshops.

Dr. Haroution Selimian presented a spiritual meditation during the opening service of the programme. At the end of the service, Rev. Dr Nadim Nassar, the Founder and Executive Director of Awareness Foundation, presented his newly published book "iJesus" to Rev. Dr. Haroution Selimian.





The training of Ambassadors for Peace Programme in Aleppo, Syria took two directions:

- Spiritual direction led by Revd Dr Nadim Nassar; and



- Social direction led by Dr. Pierre Filfli under the title of "Facing Fears".



Latakia, Syria

We began our Ambassadors for Peace programme at Our Lady of Annunciation Church for the Greek Catholics in Latakia.



The first day started with a worship service led by Fr Michael Kandalaft, the Parish Priest with the participation of Fr Vasken Koshkarian, the parish priest of the Orthodox Armenian Church in Latakia.



The morning session was led by Revd Dr Nadim Nassar, The Executive Director of Awareness Foundation, who gave a talk about "Fear and Temptation".



After that, Dr Pierre Filfli led two workshops as he did in Aleppo about "Crisis management and social and psychological consequences". Dr Pierre Filfli continued his training which included:

- * How does my life continue after the earthquake?
- * How do I overcome the crisis?
- * My personal effectiveness.
- * Investing in the positive side of the crisis.

We divided the participants into groups to lead different workshops, and the programme included a great number of ecumenical young people from different Christian denominations in Latakia.



The groups were amazingly engaging and interactive.



At the end of the programme, the young people spent a session in creative worship of meditation and prayers. It included different stations which helped them to have an intimate time with God.



The same content was given at Ambassadors for peace Aleppo.

We would like to thank wholeheartedly our dear and faithful Patron **David Tse** who is based in Hong Kong for his endless generosity and especially his amazing gifts to the Ambassadors for Peace in Syria. The gifts were 'Power banks' and 'USB memory sticks' which were much needed in their lives as university students. We are so grateful to David for being a role model for all of us in his tireless support and commitment to offer everything possible to help those who are in need.



Dr Pierre Filfli

Dr Filfli accepted our invitation to be one of our Consultants in the Middle East for his long standing years of training and consultation for our programmes. Revd Nadim gifted him our Ambassadors for Peace pin as a gesture of gratitude and acknowledgment for all his services to the Foundation.



Ambassadors for Peace

Latakia, Syria

In Partnership with JCI (Junior Chamber International)



For the first time Awareness Foundation ran Ambassadors for Peace programme in partnership with JCI, non-profit organization with mission to provide development opportunities for young people.

Junior Makhoul, Chairman of the Local of Directors of JCI welcomed everybody especially with AF. The International Youth Chamber in Syria was established in 2004 under the supervision of the International Chamber of Commerce, ICC.

As part of the "Watan" (Home) campaign that was launched by JCI Latakia, the "Nafas" (breath) project started its first training which aimed to prepare qualified personnel for psychosocial support that can help in any disaster.



Revd Dr Nassar opened the training and introduced Awareness Foundation to the participants. Following that, Elza Nasra, AF Coordinator introduced Dr Pierre Filfil who led the day.

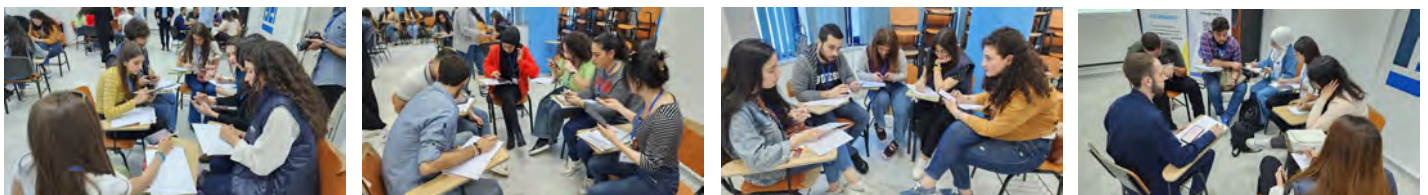


The training included several basic sections such as introduction to disasters whether they are natural or man-made, their impact, types, how



to manage them, and the most prominent measures to being ready in order to reduce their damage as much as possible.

Also, the training shed light on the concept of "immediate response", its fields of work, as well as how to coordinate and be organised to complete its tasks to the fullest. The training was concluded with the most important section, which is how to deal with and protect those affected by disasters while providing humanitarian service.



Other Events

Latakia, Syria

Lunch with the Clergy of the churches in Latakia

Revd Dr Nadim Nassar, invited the heads of the churches in Latakia, Syria to talk about the work of the Awareness Foundation in Syria and the Middle East and the situation of Christians in the city.

They warmly welcomed the programmes of the Foundation in the city and expressed their full support for the work of the Foundation.



Lecture by Revd Dr Nadim Nassar

The Executive Director of Awareness Foundation, Revd Dr Nadim Nassar, accepted the invitation of Fr Fadi Azar, the priest of the Roman Catholic Church (Latin) in Latakia and gave a lecture under the title "The Disciples and us after the resurrection".

It was a great event attended by a good crowd, and Fr Nadim answered the questions of the audience at the end of the lecture. It was an engaging and interactive event and we are extremely grateful for Fr Fadi and his team for their care and support and for organising this special event.



Talks by Huda Nassar

Maronite Church of The Lady of Latakia



Huda Nassar, the Awareness Foundation Director for the Middle East, was invited by the leader of the youth group at the Maronite Church to give a talk about Easter. Huda gave a talk under the title of "The miraculous fishing after the resurrection".

Latin Church of Jesus Sacred Heart in Latakia



The Fraternity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the Latin Church of Jesus Sacred Heart in Latakia hosted an interactive talk for The Director of the Middle East, Huda Nassar. Her talk was about the closed doors after the resurrection of the Lord. The gathering included time of great discussion.

Little Heroes Five Modules

LITTLE HEROES MODULES



1. The Fisherman and the Sea
2. A Land Tale
3. The Children of the King
4. The Journey of Wonder
5. Treasure Hunt

Awareness Foundation team of volunteer under the supervision of our coordinator for the Middle East finalised the writing of the five modules for our Little Heroes programme. That would not have been possible without the generous support of our partner 'Embrace Middle East' for funding these modules. We carry in our hearts huge gratitude for their prayers and financial gift which made this difficult production in Syria possible.

With their continued support, we are now working to organise in the near future a special gathering to train leaders in Syria on how to use these modules and run the **Little Heroes** programme in their own churches without the presence of our team of volunteers.

Pioneers Programme

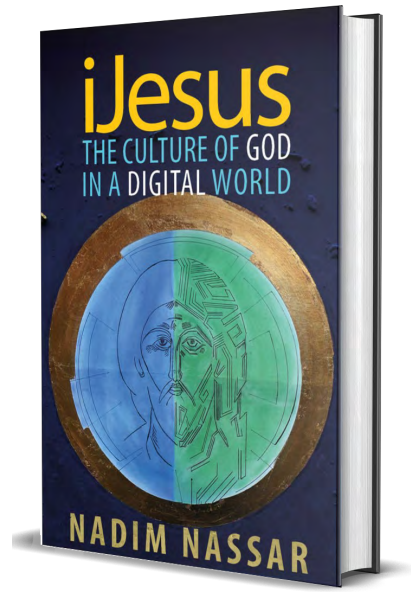
We are very proud to say that we have finalised three modules out of four, thanks to our team of writers who have been helping us write and finalize the content of the programme.



New Book By The Revd Dr Nadim Nassar

The launch of the new book was an amazing event at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square just before Easter.

Many friends and supporters attended the launch and bought the book. Part of the sum goes to the Awareness Foundation. Thanks to all who came to support Fr Nadim in this joyous event. Thank you Holly Trinity for your generosity and great hospitality.



Talk TV

The Revd Dr Nadim, The Executive Director, was a guest of Peter Cardwell on Talk TV speaking about his new book iJesus. It was very interesting conversation.



20th Anniversary of Awareness Foundation

Events

The events below which mark the 20th anniversary of Awareness Foundation are listed for our friends and supporters to pencil them in their dairies. We would be delighted to see most of you in those exciting events. The Foundation would not have continued its ministry until now without your support and prayers.

Pioneer women

Partnership with JCI
July—August

Peace Walk

2nd September 2023

Awareness Sunday

10th September

Ambassadors for Peace

Latakia—Aleppo, Syria
12-22 October 2023

Little Heroes Leader training

26-29 October 2023

Gala Dinner

5th November 2023

The 5th Awareness Foundation International Conference

6-7 November 2023

Ambassadors for Peace London

November

Why we need your support:

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



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



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



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

Thank you

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

How to donate:

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

Or send cheques, made payable to:

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

In US: TFCC America, Amin Al-Laty, Secretary

3240 Dovecote Drive, Quakertown PA 18951

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