



**Ruth Sayers**  
CMS mission partner  
**Jordan**

## Link Letter No.12 October 2011

### **My dear friends and supporters,**

#### **Greetings from Jordan**

I arrived back in Jordan during the early days of September. I moved into my new flat, or rather the flat next door to my old one, and soon felt at home. So into the office the next day I went, where I was welcomed back enthusiastically. This was actually reassuring as I wondered if they had actually missed me. For those of you who have worked overseas, you know that the name of the game is flexibility and willingness, and this proved to be very real for me on my return.

I am sitting writing this link letter in my new office at the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt, Jordan. Brother Andrew, the director, has just finished his induction with me and now I am installed as his "English Assistant" and have become part of the staff at HLID. On my return from leave in September, I found that the job at the Bishop's School had changed and that a different

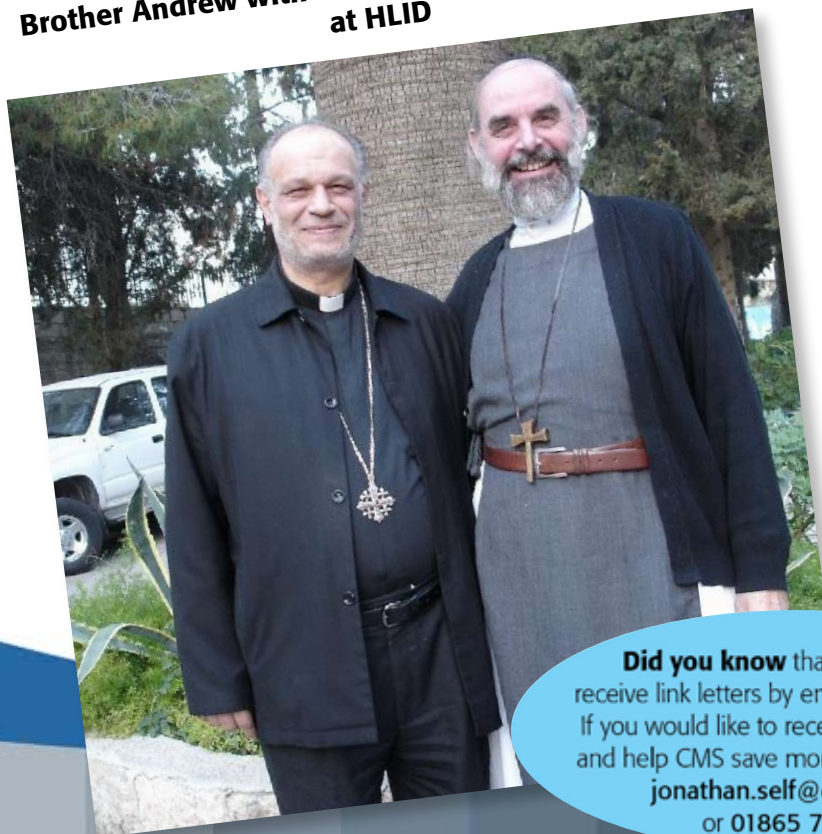
style of teaching had been implemented. This meant that the English Department staff was now smaller and that my position was no longer needed. So I was facing another change.

The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf is based in Salt, Jordan and was established in 1964. It originally was a small school for deaf children but has expanded over the years to incorporate specialised aspects of education, training and rehabilitation of deaf and disabled persons. Under the direction of Brother Andrew, the school now has 145 children – both residential and day students – and includes a unit for deafblind children. The children can start at the school from Kindergarten and follow through until they reach 18 and many join the vocational training program to enable them to train for employment.

The activities of HLID include H.E.A.R., which provides a much needed audiology service for the poor sector of the population who have no medical insurance, OUTREACH, a Community Based Rehabilitation programme, and STRIDE which seeks to increase services for deaf and disabled people through cross-disability training programs.

Working at HLID will give me the opportunity to add sign

**Brother Andrew with the Assistant Director, Fr Luay, at HLID**



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language to my skills. Every Thursday there are sign lessons for the volunteers and staff and this is essential for being part of the community here. I will also be able to use my Arabic and hope to find someone to help me improve

I will be working at HLID for four days a week until Christmas when the position will be reviewed. The other three days I will spend in Amman, one of which will be checking in with the Diocese office and catching up with office matters etc.

The life of the church continues here. Bishop Suheil was able to confirm, baptise and hold thanksgiving services at St Mary's in Irbid at the beginning of October. The Church of the Redeemer, Amman, had a wonderful display in the church for Harvest. I have been helping with the music also at the Church of the Redeemer which has its own challenges. The Bishop was also able to celebrate the granting of his Residency Permit. This was granted after many months of concern and prayer from all around the world. For more information about this please see the Diocesan website: [www.j-diocese.org](http://www.j-diocese.org)

#### Prayer items

- Thank God for the granting of the Residency Visa for Bishop Suheil and family.
- Please pray for HLID and for all the children and parents who are part of this community.
- Please pray for Brother Andrew and all his responsibilities.
- For the Diocese in its role in the Middle East, especially for the Christians who are suffering for their faith.
- Pray that I will quickly settle in to my new position and to be able to contribute to all that goes on here.
- Please pray for continued language learning and now sign language.

Thank you for your continued support and would very much value your prayers for the future.

*Ruth*



**Top: One of the skills learnt through the Vocational Training Programme**

**Middle: A lesson at school**

**Bottom: Working with a Deafblind child**

Church Mission Society

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