

ARAB EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Newsletter, Special Edition December 2021



Ahlan wa sahlan – Welcome back News at the end of the year

Dear friends and supporters of our inclusion school in Irbid!

All of us, the management and teachers of the Irbid Inclusion School, greet you warmly. On the photo you can see us when we were very happy to open the new school building for grades 11 and 12 on November 13, 2021; a very special highlight in this school year and in the history of the school in general. We thank you for all of your help and support that has brought us this far. And we ask you not to forget us in the coming year and to continue to support us.



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In addition to our large school building project, we also use your donations for personnel costs. We currently have a total of 56 employees. They should also get their salary during the Corona period, although many parents who are unable to work due to Corona do not send their children to school, but rather let them take part in distance learning in order to save school fees.

In the current school year, the AES has a total of 276 pupils. 35 of them are blind or partially sighted and 85 from Christian families.

Current Situation of the School

A dream has come true: a new building for AES in Irbid

Within three months, four classrooms for the upper level and the associated sanitary rooms were built over the existing common room using a new construction method. On November 13th, 2021 the new



classrooms were officially opened by the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, Dr. Hosam Elias Naoum. He came specially from Jerusalem for this purpose. It was his first visit to Irbid and so he was able to tour the whole school. The photos show the Archbishop at the inauguration ceremony and the unveiling of the plaque with the inscription

"For the glory of God and for the service of people / This building was built in 2021 for the secondary department / during the ministry of Archbishop Hosam Elias Naoum / and Pastors Samir Esaid and Sabah Zurikat".

Previously, the students had to leave the AES after the 11th grade in order to switch to another school.

For the visually impaired pupils in particular, the change - and with it the other way to school - was a reason to end their school time with a lower qualification. Now they can attend the AES until they graduate from high school in order to lead a better life later on. That this is possible is shown by the good results of former schoolchildren, most of whom have attended the AES since kindergarten and have become acquainted with many modern aids here.

Due to the shortage of building materials during the corona pandemic, which in Jordan, too, cannot be stopped, costs exploded during the construction phase. Suddenly the budget was



no longer sufficient. We faced a new challenge. The new school wing should be finished.

Provisional help came from the Anglican Archbishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem, who approved an advance of € 50,000, which has to be repaid.

We therefore warmly ask you, the readers of this report, to donate according to your possibilities at Christmas time for the school and work in Irbid, so that these debts can be paid off soon. Any amount is welcome.

Pastor Samir Esaid prefers to say thank you himself. However, it often takes a long time before a thank you letter from Jordan arrives here.

Description of the new building

A steel structure was used to build two floors above an existing hall. Each floor has 140 square meters and houses 2 classrooms, a staff room, 2 toilets and a small break area.

Construction work was due to begin in early June when the school was closed for the summer time. That would have been possible with the building approval from the state. Unfortunately, the blueprints were rejected five times. So, they had to be changed five times. The building permit was only granted on

August 9th. In the meantime, the price of the building material rose in Jordan, as well as in Germany and all over the globe.

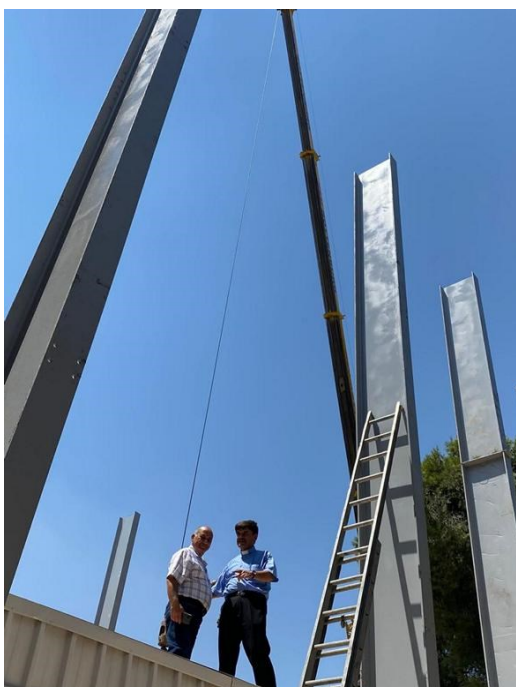


The budget of JD 21,000 (Jordanian dinars, approx. € 26,000) estimated for the beginning of June increased to JD 33,000 (approx. € 41,000) at the start of construction in August. Thank goodness AES was able to start construction. By mid-October 2021, 95% of the new building had been completed. However, due to the price increase, around € 50,000 was suddenly missing. After Samir Esaid's last conversation with Dr. Winfried Dalferth in August he spoke to the Evangelical Church in Württemberg and the Anglican Archbishop of the Diocese of Jerusalem in order to find a solution as to how the construction could be further financed.

The Anglican Diocese in Jerusalem was ready to borrow money that was intended for another project, which has not yet started. The Evangelical Church in Württemberg also signaled that the construction project could be financially supported after completion if the school applies for it in spring 2022. Of course we will, because it could repay part of the debt.

In the meantime the new school year began, but the 11th and 12th grade students did not have a finished room. They were spread out in the old building and sat in every little free corner. The situation was very depressing and a great challenge for everyone involved. It was therefore important that the craftsmen hurried to complete the new building quickly. The workers worked into the night every day, so that the new building with the beautiful, bright classrooms was ready for occupancy by mid-November and could be officially opened.

With the new school building, the dream finally came true to offer the students a qualified school leaving certificate up to the Abitur so that they have better chances of finding a job.



The ceremonial opening took place with appearances by the students in front of a large group of guests of honor, including the Anglican Archbishop of Jerusalem, Dr. Hosam Elias Naoum.



Gunter Hell and Irene Liekfeld, two members of the friends' association, also came from Germany for the opening of the new school building. They brought three donated Braille lines and a Braille typewriter. This means that all blind students can have their own machine at home. They conveyed the greetings of the association and many sponsors who donate time and again for the school in Irbid and thus help to enable the school to run. Happy with the progress that the Irbid Inclusion School is making, we greet you from the bottom of our hearts and wish you all a Merry Advent season, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2022 in health and peace.

Kind regards,
signed

Pastor Samir Esaid

signed

Sabah Zurkiat, headmistress

Many of you support the school beyond the membership fee.

We are incredibly grateful to you for this.

The corona year 2021 is particularly challenging for us,
and we are always happy to receive your donation.

It benefits the school without any deductions and is fully tax deductible.

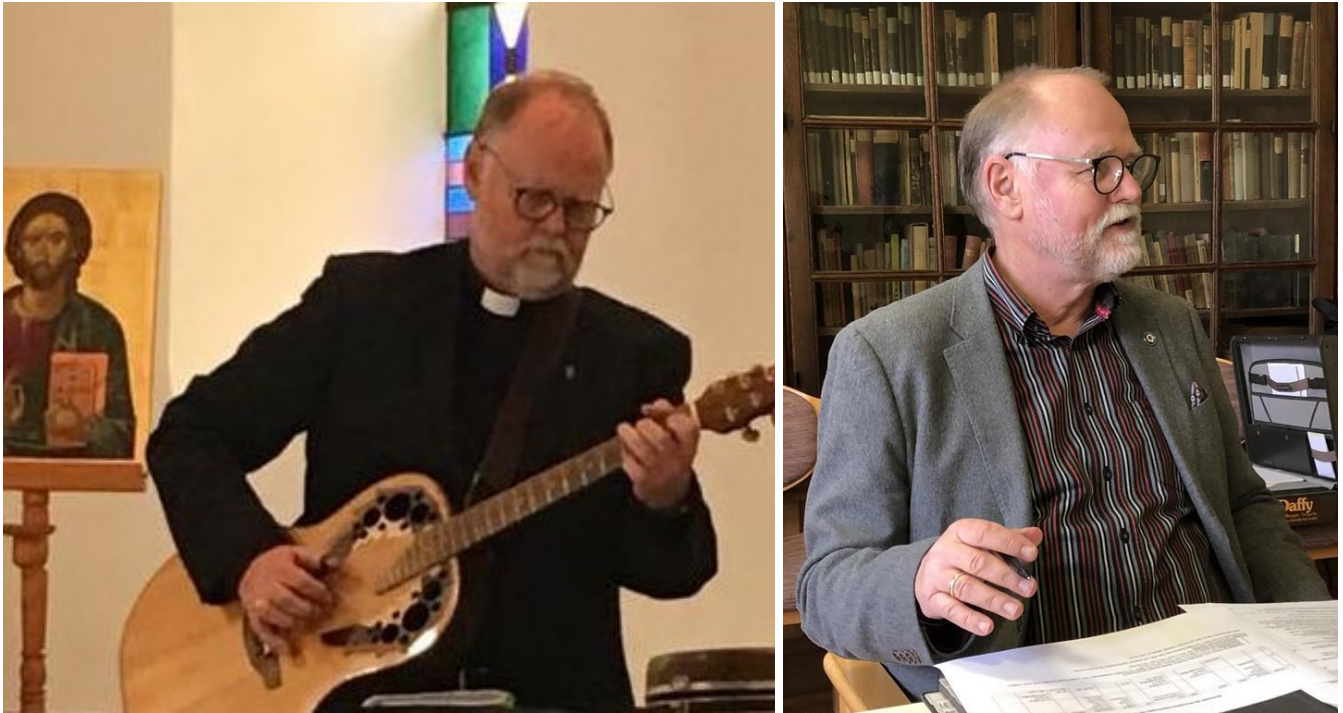
Notes on this in the imprint

Mourning in the Aid Association

Due to the sudden death of our 1st chairman, Dr. Winfried Dalferth, there had to be elections at the regular general meeting of the Association Inklusionsschule Irbid e.V. on October 23, 2021. The board now includes: Rev. Thomas Cornelius (1st chairman), Silvia Dalferth (2nd chairwoman and office), Michael Vögele (cashier) and three other members: Martin Berger, Carolin Oldenstein and Michael Westhauser. Gerlinde Bräuninger-Guldán was re-elected as auditor. Silvia Dalferth, who intensively supported her husband's work in the aid association from the beginning, was ready to continue this task in the spirit of her husband. She was elected Vice-Chair. We will report in more detail in the next newsletter.



Dr. Dalferth with Rev. Samir in summer 2019 in Öhringen



Obituary for Dr. Winfried Dalferth

On September 17th, after a short, serious illness, the 1st chairman of our friends' association passed away.

Dr. Dalferth's death touched many people in very different places. His sudden death simply does not suit this energetic, happy and warm-hearted person who, with his many gifts and interests, his humor and his accuracy, has initiated important things in so many places both in our regional church and in our association.

But above all, as an association and as a school, we mourn with his wife and family, who have lost a lot more than we can imagine.

For us as FII e.V., Dr. Winfried Dalferth was of existential importance! Without him, the association would probably not have come into being for a long time; With his expertise and his love of detail, he was not only our "first" chairman, but also the head and heart of the FII e.V. It is not least thanks to his commitment that the support of the AES can now be sustainable and reliable, that the many people who care about this school have a common platform and a center in which aid is coordinated and bundled.

"I want to bless you and you shall be a blessing." (Genesis 12: 2). With this word, which God once promised to Abraham, we remembered him and thought of his great commitment, at our first general meeting "without him" in October 2021.

Winfried Dalferth (that's how I felt) lived out of a great sense of gratitude - and from this gratitude he drew the energy with which he actually became a blessing for our school in Irbid. Without putting himself in the foreground, he set the course for our association with great precision and foresight so that we can sustainably and effectively fulfill our self-chosen task.

We can and will keep his memory in such a way that we continue our association in his spirit and help the inclusion school to develop - so that it can be a blessing for many visually impaired, blind and sighted girls and boys, Christians and Muslims.

For the association and the board of the FII
Thomas Cornelius

Imprint

AES – Newsletter: Informations of the Arab Episcopal School, Irbid, Jordan.

The AES is part of the „Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem“ (<https://www.i-diocese.org/>).

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Print / dispatch: The AES newsletter does not appear in print, but only by mail to members of the FII e.V. and to interested parties. If necessary, it is displayed at information events in schools and communities.

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Up to € 200, your payment slip is valid as a donation receipt for submission to the tax office. For individual and collective donations over € 200, we will automatically send you the certificate in February of the following year. So that it can be delivered, we ask for your postal address, which you can send us by e-mail to fii-ev@gmx.de. Thank you very much!

The AES works according to the principles of peace education.

This includes the joint teaching of:

- blind, visually impaired and sighted children (inclusion)
- boys and girls (co-education)
- Christians and Muslims (interfaith education)

Help others to help!