



# Holy Land Medical Project December Visit

A partnership of Saving Lives and MEPI (Middle East Peace Initiative)



### Caritas Baby Hospital (CBH)

Two groups participated in the visit to CBH. Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH) key staff including the Governor, Philip Crombie, the Chief Executive Officer, Paul O'Connor, the Senior Paediatric Consultant for Emergency Medicine and the Deputy Medical Director came to do a 'Needs Assessment' of Caritas Baby Hospital. The second group was led by Herve Doyen, the Mayor of Brussel's Borough of Jette and a Belgian MP, who came with four of his staff members.

The Holy Land Medical Project is a partnership of the Rotarian Medical Aid Charity, Saving Lives, founded by Dr. Peter Patel and the Universal Peace Federation's Middle East Peace Initiative. The Holy Land Medical Project aims to involve both communities in planning and working for their health care together. This was well received by the Palestinian Health Ministry and by significant Israeli Doctors some of whom are promoting similar ideas. (Photo on left of Birmingham Children's Hospital group at Caritas Baby Hospital, Bethlehem.)



We were met by Dr Hiyam Marzouqa, the Medical Director of CBH, Ernst Langensand, the CEO and the other key staff who escorted us on a tour of the hospital. Following the tour there were briefings by Erwin Schlacher, the Communications Officer, Ernst Langensand and Dr Marzouqa in the nursing training wing. Dr Peter Patel also gave a briefing on the work of Saving Lives. Robin Marsh introduced MEPI. This Briefing extended to lunch and then the medical staffs of the two hospitals remained during the afternoon for more detailed discussions and analysis.

### Hadassah Hospital Jerusalem

Dr. Peter Patel and Robin Marsh visited the Israeli Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and spoke to two Doctors, Dr Jacob Assaf and Dr

Raphael Udassin, who have established 'Peace Through Health Institute' based on similar lines between Israeli, Palestinian and US Doctors. We were given a tour of Hadassah hospital that really is one of the best in the world. We agreed to cooperate with the admirable efforts they had already made.

### June 2007 Meeting of Israeli & Palestinian Doctors



Birmingham Children's Hospital Staff and Brussels Jette Municipality during the visit to Caritas Baby Hospital

Training Centre Hadassah Hospital

### **Palestinian Health Authority**

The next day we met the Palestinian Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Anan Masri, to report the findings of the BCH by its CEO Paul O'Connor and an explanation of the work intended by the HLMP. Dr Masri gave some good guidance and asked for a proposal to be drawn up as soon as possible. Proposals made included BCH support for advanced paediatric training, consultations on serious cases, x-ray analysis over the internet links and other telemedicine links between the two hospitals.

### **Briefing the 33rd Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) Group**

On the final evening there was an opportunity to report to 150 participants of the 33rd international MEPI group. Robin Marsh began on the history of the project. Peter Patel explained the background of Saving Lives and Paul O'Connor presented his groups findings and intentions. Many participants said later they appreciated the practical developments of the frequent MEPI visits. In conclusion Paul O'Connor was presented with an Ambassador for Peace award representing the Birmingham Children's Hospital Group.

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**Paul O'Connor, Chief Executive Officer of B.C.H. receive Ambassador for Peace Award**



**Mayor Herve Doyen of Jette, Brussels B.C.H. Team meeting the Mayor of Bethlehem, Victor Batansale**



**Needs Assessment - Caritas Baby Hospital**



**Bishop Riah Abu El-Assal, former Bishop of Jerusalem visits B.C.H.**

### **Holy Land Medical Project – Saving Lives + Middle East Peace Initiative Background**

Middle East Peace Initiative's (MEPI) frequent visits, have brought Ambassadors for Peace to a region suffering from conflict. There have been a number of projects and service activities. Dr Peter Patel, a Rotarian with experience of creating Hindu and Muslim collaborative health care medical projects in India, had wanted to establish a similar health care body shared by Israelis and Palestinians. The Holy Land Medical Project is a partnership of the Rotarian Medical Aid Charity, Saving Lives, founded by Dr. Peter Patel and the Universal Peace Federation's Middle East Peace Initiative.

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