

ABM Anglican Board of Mission - Australia **Working for Love, Hope & Justice**

Friday, July 25, 2014

ABM launches Emergency Appeal for Gaza

As the people of Gaza experience airstrikes and bombings, ABM has launched an Emergency Appeal. Over the past week, more than 500 tons of explosives have been dropped on an area that is the most densely populated in the world, and home to 1.7 million.

ABM's fundraising manager, Christopher Brooks said, "Reports indicate people are running out of places to hide and shelter from the airstrikes and bombings as the situation worsens and buildings are torn apart."

"ABM wants to support these people in need in the Holy Land through this Emergency Appeal and are aiming to raise \$25,000," he said.

With over half of the Gaza population being children, the airstrikes have had a tremendous impact on the people of the Holy Land. More than 3,600 people have been wounded and the death toll continues to rise, with more than 600 killed.

Thousands of homes have been completely destroyed during the bombing, leaving 120,000 people displaced, whilst leaving in excess of 25,000 children traumatized and in need of psychosocial support.

The Al-Ahli Arab hospital, which was setup and is run by the Anglican/Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a Partner of ABM, has been structurally damaged during the airstrikes and its ventilation system in the operating theatre and the emergency room have also been affected. In addition, windows have been broken in many buildings, as well as in the new diagnostic centre.

Since the beginning of the crisis, Al-Ahli staff members have maintained around-the-clock presence at the hospital, receiving wounded people and providing them with the critical medical care that they need.

Like other hospitals in Gaza, Al-Ahli Arab hospital is experiencing shortages in medicine, fuel for electrical generators, food for patients and food for parcels for many in the community seeking help. As the authorities have called up 40,000 reserve troops, there are fears the conflict will escalate and many more people will be killed, wounded, or displaced.

Mr Brooks said, "ABM has a long relationship dating back to 1918 with the Anglican Church in the Holy Land. ABM donors have been supporting the Al-Ahli Arab hospital for some time. We encourage Anglicans to give in this time of crisis."

Please pray for the people in the Holy Land and the Anglican/Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. ABM has already sent funds to the hospital from its Global Rapid Response fund. We are aiming to raise \$25,000 for the Al-Ahli Arab hospital.

Please give what you can at www.abmission.org/gaza.

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The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. For over 160 years ABM has been assisting people all over the world to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provide health and education services, improve agricultural practices and strengthen the Church.