



Holy Family Hospital



An Institution of the Order of Malta

“Where there is always a place in the inn for all”

By Dr. Robert Tabash
Director of Administration

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Contact us:

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
322-326 Paul VI Street
P. O. Box 8 – Bethlehem
Palestinian Authority

Tel: +970 2 274 1151
Fax: +970 2 2741154

E-Mail:
[info@holyfamilyhospital-
bethlehem.org](mailto:info@holyfamilyhospital-bethlehem.org)

Website:
[www.holyfamilyhospital-
bethlehem.org](http://www.holyfamilyhospital-bethlehem.org)

The visit of H. E. Mr. Bernard Kouchner

At the proposal of the Consulate General of France in Jerusalem, H.E. Mr. Bernard Kouchner, French Minister for Foreign and European Affairs has visited the Holy Family Hospital on Saturday February 16th 2008.

On this occasion Mr. Kouchner was accompanied by Mrs. Elisabeth Guigou, former minister, H.E. Mr. Ziad Bandak, Minister for local governments of the Palestinian Authority, Mr. Salah Ta'mari, Governor of the district of Bethlehem, H.E. Mr. Alain Remy, Consul General of France in Jerusalem, as well as an important delegation of the consulate general and many journalists and press correspondents covering the event.



After a cordial reception and a short historical and actual introduction of the hospital presented by H.E. Jacques de Dumast, President Delegate of the Board of Directors of the hospital and at the time of the guided tour by Dr. Jacques Keutgen, Director General and Dr. Robert Tabash, Director of Administration, Mr. Kouchner was able to realize and was very impressed by the fact that even in a country where there is no social security and in which poverty and unemployment are spreading, it is possible against all odds to place at the disposal of the population a maternity at the edge of progress.

The minister took the time to discuss with the employees and did not fail to congratulate them for the excellence in their work, taking more time especially in the neonatology department besides the most vulnerable creatures, measuring well the considerable financial and human effort made by the Sovereign Order of Malta in this part of Palestine, in a very difficult political and economic context.

This visit also gave the opportunity to tackle the many humane problems striking the Palestinian population in particular the movement restrictions and for many of them, the residence and work permits. It was also an occasion to tackle more political problems such as the relations between France and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

Later: Mme. Albanel visited the hospital

We had the pleasure to welcome as well H.E Mme. Christine ALBANEL, French minister of Culture and Communication, on February 18th 2008. The minister toured the hospital and visited the new neonatal department accompanied by the General Director and the Director of Administration.

WELCOME Sr. Simone Abe Deeb, a Lebanese Daughter of Charity, who joined the team of the hospital as the new Matron.

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Mrs. Juliana Sacca Hodali

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EDITORIAL



Dr. Jacques Keutgen
General Manager

“
Let us be ready
to receive the
Word of our
Lord and trust
Him
”

In our life, influenced by our education, by our family, by people around us, like everybody governed by customs and traditions, conventions and obligations, sometimes in spite of themselves people fall into an ideology of despair with all catastrophic consequences for themselves, their family, their community and their neighborhood. This can happen especially for people living under exceptional bad circumstances like war, oppression, fear or death...

A human being knows that he never should lose hope in a better future, that always at the end of the tunnel there will be light, but garnering disillusion on disillusion most of the time caused by unrealistic promises of some politicians, sometimes one's body and spirit run out, believing wrongly that there is not the faintest glimmer of hope.

Haven't people in the Holy Land since decades been trapped by an environment of violence that they can not change by themselves because it was imposed by external forces? Is it still possible to inspire people with desire to take their destiny in their own hands without resorting to violence?

What could be the role that an institution like Holy Family Hospital could play in order to prevent this collective despair?

It is not easy to answer these questions. Anyway in spite of everything, our attitude concerning the conflict should be as much as possible neutral and balanced but without any doubt staying on the side of the oppressed and the poor regardless of their origin or religion. We should inspire people with hope and patience in spite of the fact that sometimes we ourselves also are falling into the trap of despair. It is not possible to take into consideration only an organ without looking after the whole person as a human being. Listening to others without prejudice, trying to understand them and indicating to them that the first solution to a conflict should be within them.

The main question that comes spontaneously to mind is: under such extremely difficult conditions are people on both sides still ready or able to keep an open space in their lives in which creativity could still influence and solve their own and others' problems?

We are sure that for believers in God, Christians, Jews or Moslems this "open space" is the space needed by God to act in us especially for Christians in this lent. Let us be ready to receive the Word of our Lord and trust Him.

ACTIVITY REPORT

Monthly Deliveries

The number of monthly deliveries since 1990 is as follows:

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
JAN	0	93	128	143	146	148	181	205	217	162	250	158	180	159	238	224	240	230	248
FEB	4	69	97	150	157	130	183	180	192	165	239	155	152	165	220	221	218	228	217
MAR	46	93	133	184	149	168	164	220	194	217	231	160	142	179	224	231	217	313	
APR	68	87	116	181	135	180	180	207	185	213	274	146	82	195	222	240	216	322	
MAY	85	92	124	170	153	188	224	233	221	246	288	195	129	214	196	238	237	366	
JUN	85	106	145	177	145	202	212	222	227	276	294	156	132	239	252	258	219	277	
JUL	84	101	151	165	172	188	209	261	234	302	329	148	136	249	232	235	243	276	
AUG	71	90	151	173	163	199	226	219	244	299	309	161	122	227	246	235	256	264	
SEP	109	103	154	171	172	167	192	241	199	276	275	146	143	220	224	234	280	233	
OCT	116	109	154	166	172	193	198	255	211	273	223	134	138	240	243	257	295	255	
NOV	97	87	150	146	149	203	196	205	161	282	165	145	121	191	221	213	257	224	
DEC	104	105	153	127	163	198	194	240	180	266	175	135	140	203	227	207	268	238	
TOTAL	869	1135	1656	1953	1876	2164	2359	2688	2465	2977	3052	1839	1617	2481	2745	2793	2946	3226	465

TOTAL DELIVIREIS SINCE 1990

41 306

Social Cases

As shown below, the chart clearly illustrates the increase in the number of social cases treated in the hospital during the previous year 2007. More than 60% of the cases were premature babies. This increase is due to the high level of stress that most women are facing due to the severe socio-economic hardships.

Number of Social Cases Treated



