

## **Justice and Hope for the Forgotten.**

The Amos Trust finds its calling in the words of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century Hebrew Prophet Amos 'But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever flowing stream' (Amos chapter 5 vrs 24). Founded by singer and songwriter Rev Garth Hewitt (Priest In Charge of All Hallow's on the Wall, in the city of London) in 1985, the organisation is committed to 'justice and hope for the forgotten' and seeks to encourage and support the oppressed and those living in forgotten situations. It also aims to inspire and motivate others around the world through hosting events, and through story and song. Amos' theology has been sharpened by its links with partners and friends around the world as part of a developing international community dedicated to justice and peace.

The organisation has specific partnerships with six communities, in South Africa, Nicaragua, Palestine-Israel, Uganda, The Philippines and Honduras. Alongside these partnerships Amos is actively involved in campaigning for human rights.

Amos Trust gives direct financial support to two initiatives in Palestine – Israel, (reflecting directly its name- sake's concerns for the Holy Land, albeit 2800 or so years later).

The *Al Ahli Arab Hospital* in Gaza, founded by the Christian Mission Society (CMS) in 1882 is a front line hospital that plays a huge role in the provision of general medical and surgical care and in prevention of illness and disability to all people in the Gaza strip. During the first intifada Al Ahli was the only hospital non-Israeli hospital run by Palestinians in Gaza working with the community. The hospital's work is invaluable, providing medical outreach clinics in areas of Gaza where each village is under separate siege (due to being close to an Israeli settlement) with entry of all supplies, medications, people and merchandise requiring permits. Ahli has also been designated by the Ministry of Health as the first line recipient for overflow of casualties after the Ministry's own hospital. The Emergency Response Team is trained to react to a call for assistance within moments notice.

Amos also funds *Open House* a reconciliation initiative founded in 1991 to further peace and co-existence among Israeli Arabs and Jews in Ramale, a mixed city of 65,000. The house is the vision of Jewish couple Dalia and Yehezkel Landau, and of Michail Fanous, a local Palestinian Christian and town councillor. The Landau's use their home to provide nursery facilities for Palestinian and Jewish toddlers. Their work of reconciliation has developed to include cross-cultural summer camps where Palestinian and Jewish teenagers can learn about each others cultures and where the focus is on the shared humanity of all. Open House also works alongside parents to educate them in their understanding of each other cultures.

Aside from these initiatives Amos has developed some enduring friendships in Palestine Israel, most notably with Bishop Riah Abu El-Assal of the Episcopal diocese of Jerusalem. Bishop Riah is the head of the Anglican Communion and yet he rarely has the opportunity to be heard outside his own devastated diocese. In each Easter and Christmas message from the Patriarchs of the Anglican Church in Jerusalem there is a call for support and prayers from the wider Anglican Communion, and yet Palestinian Christians remain isolated, persecuted and many unable to leave their homes to worship, even on Christmas day.

Amos have hosted Riah's visits to the UK on numerous occasions. He has spoken at the Greenbelt Arts Festival for the last two years, and he has visit All Hallow's on the Wall to speak to the *Amos Collective*. The Amos Collective represents a core of Amos supporters aged in their 20's and 30's. The collective meet regularly to hear Amos partners, and have organised weekends away focusing on particular issues. They also visit projects, partners, activists and politicians overseas to see the practical cause and effect of the Trusts work.