



September 2013

Dear ICIN supporter

I thought it is time to update you on the progress of ICIN since my last formal communication to you in the news letter of January 2012. To start with, on behalf of our charity, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to each of you for your continuing support, without which ICIN would not have continued to exist.

On the organisational front we had some happy and some sad news. The good news is that we were privileged to welcome Maysoon Juma and Joe Bahoshy as Trustees. Both have been long term supporters of the charity and brought fresh impetus and dynamism to the board of trustees.

The sad news is the loss of our valued trustee and treasurer, Suhail Michael. His funeral on the 14th of June at St Christopher's was a moving occasion with a full church. His memorial fund, set up by his wife Nadia and family for the benefit of ICIN raised over ten thousand pounds, a testimony of the high esteem and appreciation for Suhail and his work. Suhail was a founding trustee and worked with ICIN since its inception in 2007.

Joe Bahoshy has kindly agreed to take over as a treasurer, a role previously held by Suhail.

ICIN is in constant contact with the Iraqi Christian communities in Iraq and neighbouring countries. The trustees endeavour to meet with Iraqi clergy whenever they visit the UK as part of tracking the situation and the needs of the Christian communities. The project committee also communicates regularly with various project supervisors and keeps in constant contact with beneficiaries of aid programs. This helps the committee in making an informed decision when looking at allocation of funds.

On the financial side the total raised last year was £98,000 and the amount of aid distributed was £103,000. Several successful fund raising events made

significant contribution, including the charity day in July last year organised by our friends, 'The Welsh Association of Iraqi Christians', the ICIN talent show, and charity dinners. Our finances were also supported by the generosity of various sponsors and organisers who ensured that the events were enjoyable as well as profitable.

Following the successful concert organised by Joe Bahoshy on 26 November 2011, and in response to public demand, he has kindly agreed to organise another one on 1st of December 2013 at St Margret's church in Twickenham. Please mark this date in your diaries and give us your support. All details are on our website www.ICIN.org.uk

Substantial amount of the charity income comes through personal donations. Special thanks go to donors who have set up standing orders, sponsored a student, a widow or a needy family. Standing order is the most efficient way of supporting the charity through regular payment and help us to plan ahead; it is easy to set up using the form in the charity website. We have over 40 supporters who currently donate in this way, with monthly donations of ten to hundred pounds each.

Another source of income is from gift aids. Last year the charity was able to claim over £6,000 from the Inland Revenue.

We are immensely grateful to our supporters who have nominated ICIN as their chosen charity for sporting events, or more personal ones like weddings, baptisms and memorials. We continue to be honoured and humbled by our supporters' efforts in this regard.

This year has not been any better than previous ones for the displaced Iraqi Christians, whether in Iraq or in neighbouring countries. The major upheaval engulfing Syria has made life even more difficult for the Iraqis who took refuge in that country. ICIN is actively supporting them through its program of financial aid to the widows and needy. However, the computer centre in Damascus was closed for security reasons after having provided training for hundreds of students for over three years.

In Iraq life continues to be difficult for the Christians and other minorities. Apart from lack of security, Christians endure discrimination in education and employment. They are in dire need of help and support if they are to maintain their presence in their country.

ICIN projects committee coordinates programs which help with educational, medical and financial aid. This year we helped in financing a medical centre in Karakosh and provided financial support for an organisation that cares for people with learning difficulty. We also run education programs in Baghdad and Northern Iraq which support 39 students at different stages of their studies. In addition, ICIN has a medical aid program in Baghdad that helps with medicine and medical treatment for the poor, plus another project that provides financial aid to needy families.

The student educational program in Jordan supports 67 children, helping them to get proper education. In total, ICIN is supporting over one hundred students at different stages of their studies, many of them would not have been able to continue without this help.

Although ICIN has provided good help thus far, we sincerely hope that we can give more. Not only to the Christians but to all persecuted and needy Iraqi minorities. However, to achieve this ambitious objective we need more funds. We are now exploring new avenue in order to achieve this objective. ICIN is hoping to be able to raise an additional £50,000 to finance new projects. ICIN trustees and council recognise the challenges they face on more than one front and endeavour to deal with them and move forward maintaining its vitality without losing sight of its objectives.

With your help we hope to be able to continue and expand our scope of assistance to our brothers and sisters in their difficult times.

Thank you again for all your help and support.
We welcome any suggestions you may have, and would be pleased to have your feedback.

May God Bless All

Faiz Tappouni
Chairman