

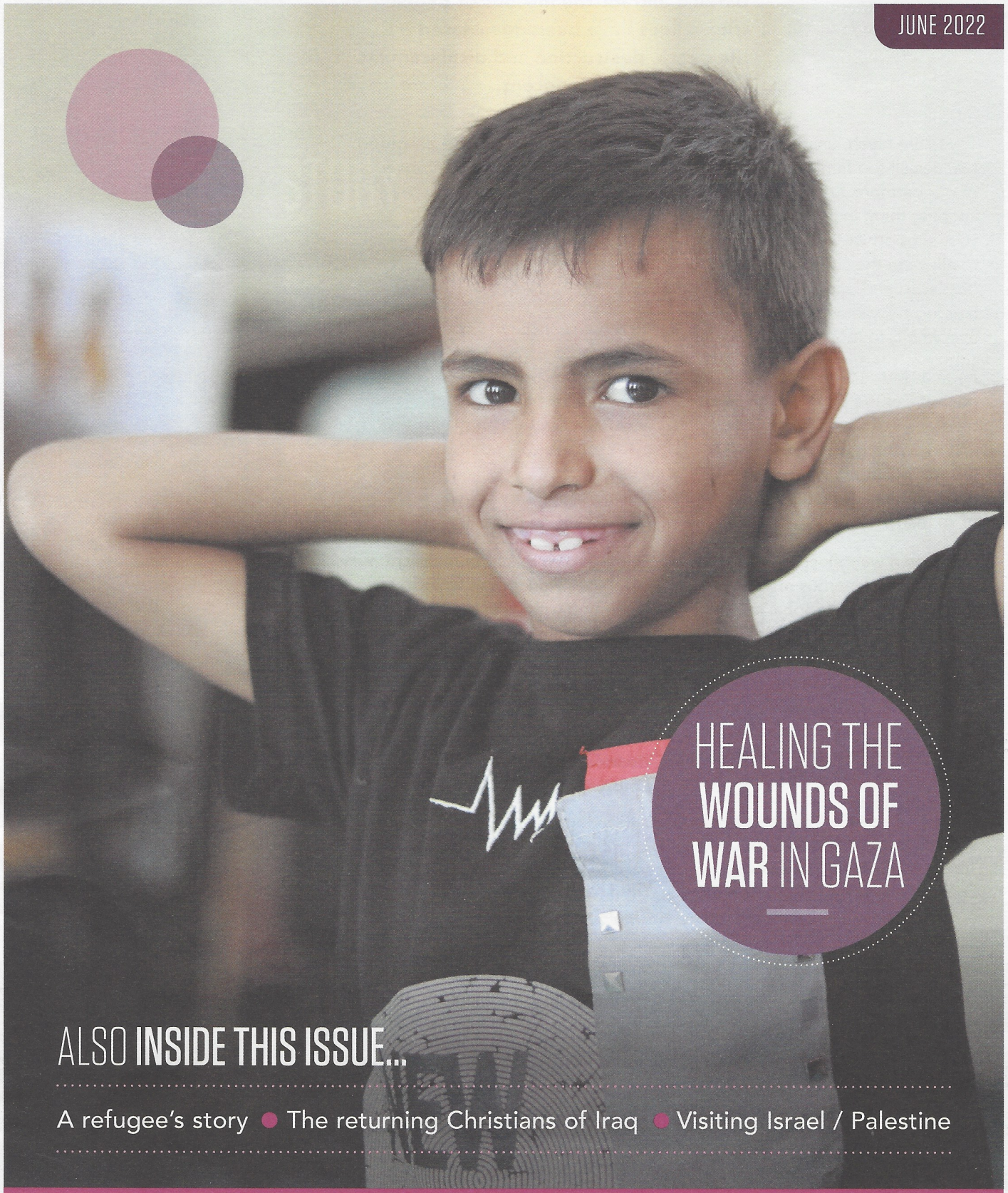
EMBRACE

THE CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT CHARITY TACKLING POVERTY AND INJUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.



EMBRACE
the Middle East

JUNE 2022



HEALING THE
WOUNDS OF
WAR IN GAZA

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

A refugee's story ● The returning Christians of Iraq ● Visiting Israel / Palestine

WELCOME



In the past three months events have unfolded that most of us thought we would never see. We continue to pray for an end to the senseless war in Ukraine and for the millions of people whose lives have been devastated by the death, destruction and displacement war visits on the innocent.

These are harsh, unimaginable realities all too familiar to many of our partners. So thank you for keeping them in mind too. With your support we continue to work to alleviate the suffering of the displaced and marginalised and helping people who have lost everything to rebuild their lives.

Page 3 details the work of our partner Refuge Egypt which helps refugees like Samir. Young Samir lost everything when forced to flee the war in Sudan, which began in 2003 and has devastated the lives of so many.

On page 4 we reflect on how your wonderfully generous response to our emergency appeal last summer has been instrumental in helping the people of Gaza heal and rebuild following the conflict in May. 'Kabir's Story: Learning to Smile Once Again' gives a flavour of what your support means to those whose lives are touched by your generosity.

We are grateful to Bishop Rachel Treweek for leading Embrace's Encounter Tour to Israel and

Palestine in February and delighted to include in this issue her powerful and personal reflection on the experience.

You can read about the transformation Anna has wrought in our digital communications this last 18 months, including our recently published podcast *My Middle East*. Do listen to Dr Rowan Williams sharing his personal reflections on Middle East Christianity past and present. And why not join us for a new four-part webinar series on Christian Zionism: 21 June – 12 July, details on page 8.

Thank you so much for making Embrace's work possible and for joining with us in prayerful solidarity with our brave and hard-working partners.

We and they are so grateful for your ongoing support.

Heartfelt thanks from all at Embrace.

Tim Livesey,
Chief Executive

MATCH FUNDING CHALLENGE!






Since the recent Embrace Lent Appeal for the Karagheusian Centre in Beirut, a charitable trust was moved to provide us a grant of £6,500 to help pay for laboratory tests and medical supplies at the centre. The trust has asked for another charitable trust or generous individual(s) to match their donation.

We need your help to enable this incredible support to happen.

If you can help, please contact us at info@embraceme.org or call 01494 897950.

Editor: Beth Amphlett | **Editorial:** Matt Adcock | **Design & Production:** www.fisherdesign.co.uk

Embrace the Middle East, 24 London Road West, Amersham, Bucks HP7 0EZ

01494 897950 | info@embraceme.org | embraceme.org | @FollowEmbrace   

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FLEEING WAR: A REFUGEE'S STORY

At 14, Samir should have been enjoying hanging out with his friends or concentrating on his schoolwork. Instead, he was wandering the streets of Cairo, homeless and alone in a foreign country.



THERE ARE CURRENTLY OVER

273,000

REGISTERED REFUGEES IN EGYPT AND
THE REAL NUMBER IS FAR HIGHER.

The streets of Egypt. (Photo credit:
David Uttley, Compelling Story)

Samir fled from his home in Darfur, in Sudan, where a brutal conflict has been raging since 2003. He lost his childhood to war, and then his family - whom he saw killed in front of him. Samir managed to escape and get himself to Egypt, but with no family, no home, and his education unfinished, he had little hope for the future.

Samir is just one of thousands of refugees, many of them children, whose lives have been turned upside-down by conflict. The human cost of war has been vividly and heartbreakingly portrayed on our television screens in recent months. Sadly, the Middle East is witnessing similar scenes of terror and despair that we are seeing in Ukraine.

Through our partner Refuge Egypt, we are helping people like Samir who've lost everything because of war. With your donations we can provide food, shelter, and clothing for those left with nothing; psychological counselling for those struggling to overcome their trauma; and training and employment to help them rebuild their lives.

Refugees come through our doors in times of greatest need, looking for a bag of food or a blanket.

Dr Eman Kamal, Medical Director at Refuge Egypt in Cairo

Refuge Egypt was able to give Samir the shelter and help that he desperately needed. He is now safe, living in a shared home and with financial support so that he can restart his studies.

But every day more refugees arrive in Egypt. There are currently over 273,000 registered refugees in the country and the real number is far higher. Many are living a precarious existence with no savings or safety net to rely on and struggling with the psychological scars of their experiences.

We are so grateful to all who have given to our latest appeal to help refugees like Samir. With the eyes of the world on Ukraine, many other tragedies risk being overlooked. Our partners need our help now more than ever to continue their vital work.

You can give to our refugee appeal at embraceme.org/appeal or call 01494 897950





HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR

In May last year, rising tensions between Gaza and Israel tragically led to the worst escalation of violence since the 2014 war. Thankfully a ceasefire was agreed after 11 days of fighting and has so far continued to hold. But the rocket attacks from both sides caused long-term damage, particularly to Gaza's already extremely fragile infrastructure, and tragically led to the deaths of 256 Palestinians and 13 Israelis and wounded thousands more.

Your swift and generous response to our emergency Gaza appeal was amazing and has helped to make a real difference in the 12 months since the conflict.



Donor aid was desperately needed. A generous grant from Embrace the Middle East made a significant impact.

Gaza YMCA



A family home in Gaza damaged by the bombing. (Credit: Caritas Jerusalem)

REPAIRING BOMB DAMAGE

Air strikes hit the street close to our partner Gaza YMCA. Luckily no one was in the building at the time, but extensive damage was caused, including to the playgrounds, kindergarten compound and staff offices. Thanks to your donations, we could help fund the repair work. This has now been completed, making the building safe again. The 20 YMCA staff have been able to return and resume the YMCA's program of activities that benefit over 2,200 young Palestinians.

PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

The air strikes not only destroyed homes and buildings but also damaged infrastructure, including Gaza's water and electricity networks. Villages in the North Governorates of the Gaza Strip were particularly badly affected. Your donations meant our partner Caritas Jerusalem could organise the regular delivery of filtered water, as well as providing tanks for safe water storage and distributing chlorine tablets, to ensure clean drinking water to over 400 families.

